ダンジョンシーカー
The Dungeon Seeker
2
サカモト666
SAKAMOTO666
アルファポリス
ALPHAPOLIS

# ダンジョンシーカー
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# 主な登場人物
Main Characters

## ヘンリー・ワトソン
元勇者パーティ、「剣聖」の
二つ名をもつ剣士。
とある階層で暮らしている。

## キシン
因習の村に暮らす
褐色の肌の美少女。
村民から奴隷的な
扱いを受けている。

## 謎の冒険者
各階層に置き手紙を残す
謎のトレジャーハンター。
特技は【過去視】。

## 神
順平達がいた世界の創造主。
見た目は十二、三歳の
金髪少年。齢三億歳。

## サトリ
人の心を読む魔物。
長い黒髪、純和風の
着物を纏う。

## サーニャ
蛇の髪を持つ魔女。
複数の魔眼の所有者。

## 武田順平（たけだじゅんぺい）
神の気まぐれで異世界に
飛ばされた青年。
無謀ステータスで
『狭間の迷宮』を攻略中。

## 竜宮紀子（たつみやのりこ）
順平の幼馴染。
順平を裏切り
不良グループに寝返った。

# Prologue – The Melancholy of The Great Sage ▼

「What……you'd take me outside?」

Takeda Junpei who got out of the Dryad's floor, he is currently standing in a white mysterious space.

In front of him, the one who summoned Junpei and the rest to a different world with a whim, aged 300 million, an immortal Shota God.

In a very long time, having free time and boredom and even unable to die, it was really boredom out of the imaginations, and unable to endure the torture of living and endless life, it's a God whose head was a little like "that".

And he is in the usual black leather jacket and tight leather pants that he wore.

「You're hasty……well mentioning that later……well, in other words, you've become a player」

To Junpei who was dubious, the God said that while making a fearless smile.

「Player……?」

The God interrupted Junpei with his hand, and shook his head sidewards.

「This is also too early huh……well, even if I explain it to you now, there's a higher probability that you're going to die before you reach there…… forget it」

「It looks like it's useless even if I tell you to teach me」

「It's nice that you understand quickly. In short, well, making a long story short, it's that you've come to a different dimension. Think of this, the

monsters that you've killed, each of them have the same, or maybe more, they have the strength of the Demon King in the outside world. You defeated them all easily all by your self」

Junpei made a sullen face there, and said bluntly.

「……well……all of them weren't ways that couldn't be praised though」

「He～……」

Puckering his lips, *Hyuu*, the God whistled.

「n? What?」

「Already accepting it as natural……I thought that you're already become some scum, but this is interesting. While slurping blood and crawling on the hell dyed with shit and organs……it looks like you still have a moral character. I

think that's something not easy to do」

The God pats Junpei's shoulder and nodded several times.

Junpei clearly broke his expression, and while slapping away the God's hand, he asked frankly.

「And so, what do you really want? It would be nice if you start continuing the thing you're saying that you'd let me out of here?」

「You're cold……it's our reunion after a while, can't you be at least friendly with me?」

「Be friendly? ……although these damn things are happening to me because of your past time?」

「Meaning, you hate me?」

Junpei nodded greatly while glaring.

「Really, the man that you are……. I can burst your body with just the flick of my finger you know?」

Junpei who remembered the splatter scene that happened to Kido Shouta that got summoned with him that day, his expression wavered in an instant, but once again, he glared at the God.

「From the time, that I ate the No Life King's meat……I have decided」

「Decided?」

「Not anymore, to the ones that uses violence as their asset……whoever it is, I'll never bow my head. Even to Kido……and even to you」

Only in an instant, the God made a dumbfounded face.

And when his expression broke, he started laughing as if a river broke.

「Haha……fufufu……hahaha!! HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!!」

He crouched in his place, and collapsed.

The God tossed and tumbled and rolled around while holding his stomach, and tears of laughter were swelling at the end of his eyes.

「Hahahaha!! Fufu!! Hyaha!……my stomach……it hurhaha!!」

Junpei was left to himself completely, but the God didn't care and continued to laugh.

After a few minutes of rolling around.

When he finally calmed down, he stood up, took a deep breath, and started talking.

「Uhh, un. You're really good, you——I like you」

「That's why I'm telling you, why the hell did you come here?」

「Ahh, that's right, that's right, it's about that. There's one bad news」

The God's indifferent, and strangely light tone.

——this guy who thinks that all human life are equally worthless, the『Bad

News』from him.

To the bad feeling from it, cold sweat ran on Junpei's back.

「Bad news……?」

「Un. It's bad news even for you and even for me. After all, for my, you being able to continue to live links to my past time——it means it's critical」

「……hurry up and say it」

The God wickedly smiled sweetly.

「In the ones that entered this labyrinth, how many people who ate the No Life King's meat on the first floor are there?」

「How can I know that, you idiot」

The God exaggeratedly shook his shoulders, and mischievously took out his long tongue.

It was really pissing off that each of every movement he does was suitable to the paintings and carvings that are displayed in an art museum.

「The adventures that entered the labyrinth, or maybe sacrifices that were thrown forcefully……their total number is 400882. And within those……other than you, there existed 15 people who ate that meat」

"Oi……", Junpei couldn't help to answer with a dismayed voice.

「But, Status Ailment Resistance skills should be needed to eat that meat……it should be impossible normally. It's hard to defeat in the first place……that's right, that poison is cannot be gained by normal means……. that's why, wasn't it because its rarity that I was able to survive?」

The God told him coldly.

「If there are people who originally have status ailment resistance skills, is that that much of a strange thing?」

「Uhh……」

After thinking there for a while, Junpei continued.

「So, what happened……to them? Were they, able to clear it?」

And then the God said with a light tone as if to tell today's weather.

「Everyone died you know? And very easily too」

「eh……?」

「If I'm correct, you received the explanation from the start right? That this is a labyrinth with 0% survival rate」

「There's 15 of them……and all of them? How much of a fierce effect this poison have……I've experienced it first hand……?」

「The story's simple, in this labyrinth from now on……neurotoxin doesn't have that much of an effect. That's simply it. In the first place, don't you think that it was lucky enough since status ailment had an effect on the boss class Cerberus?」

——the God's words only meant, as a death sentence to Junpei.

「Oi oi, wait a minute……the poison……are you saying it wouldn't have an effect……?」

To Junpei's question that was near to a scream, *Kokuri*, the God nodded.

「That's correct? But……you aren't stupid right? And you, that you were not expecting that……I don't believe it though?」

「No, that's true. It's true that I had that on my mind……but, uhmm, that being said frankly to my face, it's a little……」

「Was it a shock?」

After a pause, Junpei admitted it honestly.

「Generally saying, it would be like that」

“Hmm……”, after thinking for a while, the God said.

「Although that’s been said, I’m only saying that it would be harder for the poison to have an effect you know? It’s not like all of the benefits of the poison you have right now have disappeared」

Junpei’s expression softens a little, but it clouded again immediately.

「But, all of those who have the poison’s skill……they all died right?」

“Haha”, the God laughed interestingly.

「Well, within the monsters, there are ones who can nullify the poison after all you know?」

Just right earlier, the God said, that the benefits of the poison haven’t disappeared.

But in the same breath, the declaration of nullification.

Junpei has the status ailment resistance himself, but resistance and nullification completely have the different meanings.

To the God’s evasive way of talking, it boosts Junpei’s anger.

「You bastard……are you fooling around? Didn’t you just damn say…… that my benefits haven’t disappeared……?」

「Well, this is vexatious. In truth, I’m not lying. From now on, it is basically harder for the poison to have an effect. And, there are also ones who can nullify it. If there’re ones that can be affected by it, there’s also ones that cannot. There’s no failure there as a language right?」

「……?」

「Well, just like the time with Cerberus, letting it eat one hand……from now on, a strategy like that, you wouldn’t know if the poison has an effect or not, so……you probably cannot do it. If you’d do that again, you might not be let off with only your hand you know?」

「As I’ve thought, you’re really fooling around huh? Basically, my

strategies are similar to that. And, I can only do that……. that at least, you know it right?」

「Fooling around, you say……well, if it's to have fun I'll do anything though? Making fun of you, is also one part of it」

And, the God fixed his playful attitude, and nodded seriously.

「Making fun of me……you say」

「Or maybe——even your fate」

「My fate……?」

Shaking his head sidewards a little, the God made a difficult expression as if he was thinking of something.

「No, maybe it's more proper to call it alteration……」

Junpei couldn't understand what he was trying to say at all, but the God was a person like that so it couldn't be helped.

But even so, he asks him a question to communicate.

After all, with each of this boy's words……there is probably information that it would be deadly if he missed it.

「Sorry, can you teach it so that I could understand……what do you mean?」

The God shook his head as if he couldn't entertain those words.

「Seriously speaking, there are rules in this labyrinth that even I can't go against with. In one of those rules, that it is『Impossible to clear』……it is something that applies to you right now, so it would be against the rules」

「Rule? What are you saying since earlier……?」

The God tilted his head as if to get troubled.

「I'll explain it a little bit simpler. Listen carefully okay? Not limited to

you, the gates of this labyrinth for all humans that are more than a certain age. No, in the characteristics of this labyrinth, it needs to be opened……oh, if I explained more than this you're only going to be in a panic, so you only need to remember this. This labyrinth needs to be able to be cleared by somebody somewhere. Even if the possibility of doing that is almost zero, it shouldn't be completely zero. However……in reality, there's one problem that is occurring. Saying it shortly……whatever happens, you cannot clear the next floor with your status」

「It cannot be cleared?」

「You tilted to one status too much」

「……?」

「For example, the more you advance the floors, the monsters also gets stronger to a different dimension. If that happens, the whole facility……the walls, or the door entrance needs to be more durable ones. That's why from now on, even a laughable situation that you wouldn't be able to open the door with your strength since it is too heavy would happen seriously. In the first place, it's a dungeon created for the ones that don't fit in the category of humans. It's only that it is not expected for someone who's weaker than a normal human to be able to reach there」

「Meaning?」

「To the one that created this labyrinth, it didn't expect for someone to place status to the extremes as much as you. So I appeared there to give you a helping hand」

Junpei started to talk with a voice filled with a little bit of anger.

「I don't like beating around the bush. It would be good if you say it from the conclusion?」

The God passed a note to Junpei.

「This is, for things like opening the door, or the terrains inside the room——for example, if you would be able to endure the magma from far away, it is the status data needed the least to clear those in that meaning. Even how much you use your head, whatever you do——the basic stats

without the addition of the equipments……it's impossible without this status. It is good to say that if you don't clear this, it's the at the level that it would even be impossible for you to breath inside the room in the floors from now on」

And there, Junpei crinkled his expression.

「Even if I were to fix my status at the least points needed as this note says, my level lacks in hundreds……if you can raise my status with something like God powers, it would really be a thankful thing」

The God shook his head sidewards there.

「I can't cooperate directly that much」

「Do you know? That the worst scums are those who only say things and do nothing?」

The God laughed cheerfully.

「Haha! Well, it's only an easy story that the Skill Hunter job only needs to be an advanced one」

「Raising the job? My aptitude is jobless……」

「The aptitude from the time you were born, meaning, the job is decided whether you are going to be good at something or not though. But that is only the settings in the start, and it is also possible to change jobs or to advance jobs if you clear the requirements. For example, with your speed status right now, you should be able to change to the highest rank of the thief's job」

「Thinking about it, the cronies of Kido……they were saying things like…… when a certain amount of status was reached after being an A-Rank adventurer, the requirement for an advanced job would be cleared, or something like that」

「That's right. The thing called adventurer's guild, it also has a meaning as the job skills guild. If you only clear the requirements, they would help you to change jobs. That's why, everyone, they aim to become an A-Rank adventurer, or further than that」

And there, Junpei let out a sigh.

「But, well, it's nonsense even if I can do that. After all, I cannot move from here since I'm trapped in this labyrinth」

And there, the God shook his shoulder and said this.

「I told you earlier right? This labyrinth, to all of those who lives in this world……even if the possibility is very low, at the point that they walked down to the first floor, it needs to be possible to be cleared. And, the situation that occurred right now is not your responsibility as a player, but that this labyrinth——that only ones with advanced jobs are expected to enter it, it is clearly the incompetence of the dungeon creator. That's why, there's a need for you to go to the outside world from here and have your job a grade up」

Silence for a while, and after a few hesitations——

Junpei instinctively let out a voice.

「Oi, that means……aren't you telling me that I can get out?」

「That's why, I'm telling you since earlier right? And also……going outside is only temporarily. Your soul is already eaten by this labyrinth as a sacrifice, and I can't intervene with that fate」

「What do you mean eaten……?」

Not answering to that question, the God puts a hand to Junpei's shoulder.

「The duration is six months. On that point, even if you didn't have an advanced job, or even if it becomes a situation that it is impossible to clear, you would be forcefully taken back」

「If, at that time, I didn't have an advanced job, what are you planning to do?」

「n? Ahh, well, of course. I'll laugh while saying『Die in this labyrinth』you know? After that, I won't have something to do with you anymore. After all, you were only that much……I'll just find another toy」

「……I see now」

「Ahh, that, that, it's about that. And so, the reason that I'm siding with you……is simply, there's something that I'm very curious about」

「Curious about……?」

「——I also told you this earlier, I want to see your revenge play. That is the thing that I have most interest on right

now」

Junpei who was dumbfounded, opens his mouth.

「……?」

"Un, un", the God nodded several times.

「I'll just repeat it though, honestly speaking you know. I don't really mind if you die. Even if you die in the labyrinth, even if you die in the Carnival, or even if you get killed by the guys outside. If it was fun, whichever of those is good. But, you who have reached inhuman level right now, to your classmates once before, and the common people of the outside world, on how you would treat them——just thinking of it, it really is exciting you know! This is really, something that I truly feel!」

And, he continued.

「——and most of all, I want to see that!! I refuse to let you die before that!! If you're going to die, please die after you return to this labyrinth!!」

*Gokuri*, Junpei held his breath.

「So……what should I do to go outside……?」

And there, *Pan*, the God claps his hand, and smiled sweetly.

「And by the way, leaving that aside……」

「No, don't leave it aside! You can't leave that to the side there right!」

The God completely ignored Junpei's pleading that was almost screams.

「Ne～, don't you want to know?」

「What」

The God approached his face to Junpei's, and brought his lips to his ears.

When his breath tickled Junpei's ear, the God whispered suggestively.

「The creation of this labyrinth, or something like……the meaning of its existence」

「The creation of this labyrinth……you say?」

While pushing back the God's chest to cut off the unpleasant feeling in his ears, Junpei thought about the words of the God.

This labyrinth to Junpei, he only has the recognition of it as the worst punishment game in the world.

But, thinking of it very carefully, no, even if you don't think that much, it's true that there's a lot of strange things.

In the first place, the monsters that are completely ignoring the ecosystem of the outside world, why do they only

exist inside this cave.

It was really proper being curious about it.

「Originally, the difficulty of this labyrinth wasn't this abnormal. But even if I say that……u～n, how can I say this」

After thinking for a while, *Pon*, the God hits his palm.

「Maybe it's easier to say that it's what you call on the RPG games, as the extra dungeon huh?」

「The bonus dungeon after defeating the last boss and clearing the game? But, the mobs of this labyrinth has equal strength with Demon Kings……and

the strongest class of S-Rank adventurers, there were a lot of them killed on the first floor like trash right? If it's a normal game's extra dungeon, the party would be annihilated in the first encounter……it shouldn't have a difficulty like that right?」

「Un un, that recognition isn't wrong. And then……the difficulty here is only about that much originally. If you have the strength to subjugate the one called a Demon King in the outside world, or maybe, if you're an S-Rank adventurer……you should probably be able to clear the early floors to an extent, or maybe you will be able to have a way to return to the outside world……it's that kind of dungeon」

「Are you saying……that it was changed into this ridiculous dungeon because of something?」

「Well, more than half of the reason is me though」

「I see now. Well, I thought that might've been the case」

When the God smiled sweetly, Junpei took out the Cerberus's Canine from his waist, and in a completely surprising attack, he threw it with all the power he could put on it to him with an intent to kill.

As if the sudden surprise attack was something that was fun, the God picked up the Cerberus's Canine in the air while smiling.

「If the Cerberus's Canine that has a God killer attribute would have an effect on you, I wanted to see it though……」

「I will have no comment on that……whether or not it would have an effect, in the case that you were able to do an attack like that to me, I want to see your expression at that time…….by the way, I want to ask something」

「n, what is it? Is it about why I came to wanting to kill you?」

「No, that's wrong. You……I know that you are always boiling with the killing intent that you'd want to kill me if there was a chance. And that I am also saying things as if to pour oil in that. Well, not something that doesn't matter like that, the thing that I want to ask is——are you really not afraid of me?」

The God placed his pointing finger and middle finger together, making a posture that he could snap his fingers anytime.

「Afraid? Me, to you? That's a bad joke」

Making a dumbfounded expression, the God talked.

「I don't remember saying jokes though……if I snap my finger, not being able to do anything, you will be……」

And there, Junpei answered with also a dumbfounded expression.

「For you, including human, all living things equally have no value right?」

「In Earth……other than humans who are creating games……that's probably true」

「On top of that, you went out of your way to come and observe me right?」

「……what do you want to say?」

"In short……", Junpei raised his middle finger towards the God.

「Are you thinking that I haven't noticed that you scumbag!! For your way of killing time……it means that I'm the best actor in that stage right? So there's no way for you to kill me that easily!!」

With an expression as if disgusted, or maybe impressed, the God whispered.

「In this situation where you might die with a single mistake, and on the top of attacking me, those words……」

「Are you discontent, dear God?」

With a shining expression, the God let out a sigh of amazement.

「Nope, it's the opposite. I now know how you were able to survive up until now. It's true, that reaching the assumption that I probably would not kill you, isn't that difficult. But, normal humans, to that guess, they wouldn't bet their lives on it……. really……a man like you……」

And there, the God walked towards Junpei, and hugged him.

Breathing where he could tickle his ears, he continued.

「I'll admit it. It's completely what you've said. I'm very interested in you. Will you be able to clear this labyrinth, or what would be the ending to the revenge that you would do, and what will you do in this labyrinth after knowing everything……un, it's very interesting……ahh, I just noticed right now, but your true strength might really be having the characteristics of a gambler」

「Gambler……you say?」

「No, maybe it's the one you call catastrophizing. Anyways, your true special characteristic, that is——if there are no other choices, even if it is reckless……to that only hope, and which is also the best choice, it's about you being able to bet all of your life on it」

And, the God continued as if he was having fun from the bottom of his heart.

「That, it's not something that a normal human can do you know?」

To the God's amazed expression, Junpei couldn't say anything back.

Silence for a while.

「……get off already!」

To the boy that was grinning while hugging him with strangely voluptuous expression while looking straight at him, Junpei roughens his voice while feeling nervous.

Even if he knew that it was a guy, having the distance to a very beautiful face where their breath touches each other, he couldn't help getting confused.

And also, the breath doesn't only tickle his ears, but also his nose.

The sweet smell accelerates Junpei's heartbeat.

——no, maybe, he might be a girl?

"With his clothes, and with his chest not having any bulge……", to Junpei who started to get into extreme confusion, the God lightly kissed his cheek.

「Oi, you!……I mean, you're a boy, and I'm a boy……eh? ah?……eh?!」

「You're unexpectedly cute, huh. Well, from now on, when you're advancing in this labyrinth, I'll warn you to be careful of sex appeals」

And there, the God took off his arms from Junpei, and took a one step away.

「Oi, you're——」

「If I'm a boy or a girl……that's a secret. If there's a time when we enter the same bed……I'm looking forward on your expression that time」

「Bed, you say……I mean, you're pretty secretive huh」

Reaching out his pointing finger in the front of his nose, *ChiChiChi*, the God mischievously clicked his tongue.

「If it's going to be fun if I'll tell you, I'll tell it to you, and if it wouldn't be fun, I won't you know? Why are you saying

such normal things?」

「……not doing something with a waste of time huh. Hey, it would be really nice if you start going on the main part. Was it the creation of this labyrinth? I mean, what happened to going outside……」

「It's properly connecting about going outside. That's why you can relax and listen until the end. Well……honestly, those guys using the rule for their side……it's a little unpleasant. But even that's said, it's not like I can do it by myself」

「……even if I ask what the hell is "those guys", would the answer be you can't answer?」

*Hyuu*, the God laughed cheerfully.

「Correct……. well, with that, the creation of this labyrinth——was it?」

Junpei affirmed by nodding without saying anything.

「You remember that I've spent time alone that's unimaginable right? About the prison of time called immortality」

「Well, who would forget someone who had an introduction that has that much impact in the first meeting」

「So, even if this world's outside of my management, I can intervene up to some extent. And the time when I would be able to intervene you directly, it when you reach over level 1000 thought……well, that doesn't matter. Anyways, I intervened in this labyrinth, that's why I'm here」

「Intervene……huh」

「And so. There was a time when I intervened in this labyrinth before」

Shrugging his shoulder, Junpei answered.

「And at that time also……your favorite huh, a pitiful lamb exploring this labyrinth?」

「Nope, that's wrong. The story's very simple……in short, I placed a trap」

「Trap?」

「Un. It's a trap……and……a very special one. Thinking of it right now, I wasn't thinking that much at that time. That trap was too filthy」

There were clouds on the God's expression.

The boy who doesn't have any sense of guilt from killing people and playing with fate——those words were truly mixed with a color of reflection.

Reacting to that, Junpei held his breath.

「That thing making you say that……it's really that much huh? What in the world……did you do?」

「Ahh, I really did, something that much」

「And, what kind of trap was it?」

The God who was looking far away looked up to the ceiling as if to confess.

「At that time……I might've been searching for someone who could understand me. Uhh, un. In other words, it might be more proper to say making someone experience what I had」

「Making someone experience that……you say?」

The God let out a very deep sigh.

「Well, I was probably also young. I wanted someone to feel the same thing as I did. It was only that」

Junpei had cold sweat on his back.

A bad feeling that was the worst up until now, run throughout his internal organs.

「What……do you mean? Are you saying……」

「There's a safety area here right? I think that you also know, but there

are many patterns, until you reach a safety area. Irrelevant to danger, ones that luckily found the safety area and be able to rest, or maybe, ones that ran with all of their lives from monsters and was able to reach there somehow. Well, there's a lot of them. And the trap I made was for the latter」

"Ahh", Junpei understood that his bad feeling was gradually turning into a reality.

"Most probably……", Junpei asked the God even though he knew.

「In short, what you were expecting, that in cases when they're able to run up until the safety area with their lives……for example, when there's a monster outside in that situation, they wouldn't be able to go out……it's that kind of a complete checkmate situation right? And……what is the trap that you made in that safety area, hurry up and say it」

「I made an entrance where they can go underground. Maybe you can just imagine a manhole? Of course, I wrote in the explanation properly what kind of it was though? It's not fair with deception」

Junpei asked with a little anger.

「That's why I'm saying, what did you put in that entrance?」

The God answered carelessly as if it was nothing.

「It's a library. Ah, there was also a training room」

「……library?」

A word that was different to what Junpei was thinking came out, but the following words that the God said were as he had expected.

「That's right. When you enter there, the metabolism of the body forcefully stops, and with that meaning, that person became near to an undead. There's no need to eat, and peeing and defecation would be done in the first days, but it would completely stop after that. Of course, you can't suicide. And, in the library where literature from everywhere and anytime is stored, you can just leisurely think of a way to escape that dilemma——it just means that that was written in the entrance」

“Ahh”, this time, Junpei looked up.

The God, said that he want someone who would experience what he had as a prisoner of time.

——of course, if you enter there once……

「And, how long is the “sentence”?」

「It’s one day」

「One day……?」

To Junpei who was dumbfounded, “Un”, the God smiled pleasantly like an angel.

「It’s one day in this time. Well, it would be 90 million years in the time of the world library. And of course, that’s also written in the entrance. And, at one time, a party leader whose clearing the labyrinth raised his hand」

「……」

Junpei couldn’t say anything.

On the back of the innocent smile that you can call beautiful, he could only feel shivers from them anymore.

「It’s just, well, with all doors closed being driven to a corner by monsters. There are no possibilities of a reversal……and, in the situation where you would die of hunger……there’s no human who wouldn’t choose that right?」

「90 million years……huh」

「That’s right. You can say it as eternal. A year for 90 million times. A whole life of 80 years more than a million times. And a millennium for 90 thousand times」

Junpei whispered as if to spat out.

「In other to survive, making them enjoy an eternal life far more painful than dying huh……goodness, that’s worse than a devil’s contract that often

appears on B-class movies」

「Haha. I'll take that as a compliment. Just, with that trick of mine, a problem occurred」

「Problem?」

「That I gave them too many books, and the person itself has a great disposition. That man's job, it was Sage you know. Of course, his head was——very bright」

「You gave too many books?」

And there, the God grinds his teeth.

「No, even though I said books, it's Grimoires that are to the extent of the ones in the level of this world, and basic arithmetic and physics books until the high school level in Japan. Other than that, there was only encyclopedias and normal history books. Well……there was, a book that wasn't good. That didn't make it better」

「Meaning, that guy, within the time that you could think as eternal, he read all of those and mastered them……and learned various kinds of magic in this world……? And that tremendous strength……it was even enough to make you feel unpleasant……?」

"Haha", the God scoffed at Junpei's words.

「It's only about hundreds of thousands of books. It wouldn't take a thousand years to read all of them. And even if you can learn that much magic……even in the labyrinth that once had a low difficulty, it would've been impossible to clear it」

「Then, what is it exactly……?」

「Inside the time cosmos, a normal human could only maintain his sanity for the first hundred years. And after a millennium had passed the consciousness would start to daze. It would become vague if you're existing there or not」

「You really know the details huh」

「……well, I've experienced it after all」

Confirming that there was insanity in the God's violet eyes, Junpei held his breath.

After a silence for a while, the God started to talk.

「And after hundreds of thousands of years had passed, a human could only go crazy. Even I was like that, but……well, I'm a God so if my spirit completely goes "there" it would be bad, but when my mind's about to go "there" I forcefully return it back though」

「For me, I can see that you're pretty much a resident of "that" side of the world」

While putting out his tongue, the God sent a wink to Junpei.

「Oh goodness, excuse me for that. Uhh, honestly, am I normal or abnormal, or how can I be seen from another person's perspective, I don't really know it myself」

*Fuu*, letting out a sigh at the same time, Junpei asked the God.

「And then, what happened to the man who got caught by the trap?」

Seeming like, "I really forgot……", *Pon*, the God hit his palm.

「Long story short, he endured it without getting crazy」

「……?」

「Well, rather than that, he was a "super" research maniac. Using all the time that's given, and all the materials he used all of them to magic research and exploration for the truth」

Inside Junpei's head, flashed a scene where an eccentric physics college student simply repeating a biological

experiment using mouses.

"But……", he thought.

「Alone for 90 million years……? Without getting crazy……?」

「It seemed like he finished the research itself after a few million years though. And, well, this is really laughable, but……at the really end, what he was researching for was dimension teleportation. He was on the right track until the escape from the library, but he couldn't complete it with only the materials there. And so, he gave up escaping. But, well, it looks like he was also serious」

「Serious, you say?」

「The same as you……it's revenge. Probably the strong hatred against the one that imprisoned him to that room, for an unbelievable duration……huh. And in the middle of his research, he was able to reach my existence on his own」

"And", the God continued.

「Do you know that some kind of craziness……humans originally have them as a protective response?」

「In cases when you're unable to endure too much stress, that the brain uses a physiological phenomenon called madness as a way to resolve the problem, is that it?」

「That's correct. You really know a lot of things as a high school student huh?」

「When I shut myself in at home when I was bullied, it was my hobby to check many kinds of articles in encyclopedias on the internet……well, don't mind that」

「He was able to found out. That if he gets crazy his want for revenge would fade away. In the first place, it's difficult to continue having hatred for one person for 90 million years. Emotions are things that would weather after all……. well, that being said, anyways……honestly, I was also surprised. Plunging sticks through his ears and tampers with his brain, using a powerful drug to himself, anyways……just like that, he continued to preserve his sanity, and while heightening his own magic powers, he spent the very long time that you can call unreasonable」

「……you seem very happy」

“Un”, the God nodded and said.

「It was a good way to kill time」

「……kill time……huh」

「That’s right, it’s pretty much the same as observing you……you know」

With eyes looking far away, the God started to speak while carefully remembering every each one of them.

「And just like that, one day on this world ended, and he returned. And there, he was surprised. After all, until that time, the Cerberus that pinned them in that safety area, he was able to kill it with an attack using one basic magic. Ahh, of course. Even though the difficulty of the labyrinth at that time was low, it was something that happened in a very deep floor after all……you can think of it as the same Cerberus that you confronted」

「……that group, no, what happened to that man? And, to that man, how does the difficulty of this labyrinth raising has a relation?」

The God hit his palm as if to end that story, and shook his head sidewards while laughing.

「You should see that for yourself. It’s not good to take your side too much after all. And also……the residents that you would meet in the next floors in this labyrinth, they would show you some answers」

“Hmm……”, when Junpei placed his hand on his chin, the God nodded with satisfaction.

「And with that, well then, bye bye!」

To the God that was waving his hand with a very wide smile, Junpei let out an angry voice.

「Oi!! Weren’t you going to let me out of here!!」

“Ahh, now that you say it”, the God opened his eyes widely.

「I forgot. About that……it's after, 5 floors」

「Five floors?」

「That's right. After five floors……there should be an interesting event that would happen. So I think that it's around there that it's about time for you to go outside you know? If the time is ripe, I would appear in front of you once again. By the way——the next floor really makes it impossible for you to clear it……so I changed it. It's what you call an emergency treatment, and you can think that that kind of measures would only happen once」

"And", the God continued.

「It's the end of the service there. From now on, for eternity, I will absolutely never save to in this labyrinth. I won't revive you even if you die. And even in the five floors later, it wouldn't be an exception alright?」

「……no one's expecting that much」

"By the way……", Junpei took out his status plate from his waist, and reaches it out to the God.

「Recently……there's a status that I'm able to see……」

「……un?」

Taking the status plate, the God crinkled his expression dubiously.

「This thesaurus points, what is it?」

And, as if to get the point, the God nodded.

「Ahh, I see, you also finally been "able to see" it huh」

「That's why, I'm asking you what this is」

The God placed his hand in front of his nose suggestively, and whispered with a small voice.

「Thesaurus……it means『Treasury』in the Greek language. But,

goodness……she also uses an old name」

「……she?」

「Well, maybe someday……I'll just explain it as something like Pandora's Box」

「……that's why, I'm asking you what it means. By the way, you're not planning on answering about who『she』is huh?」

「That's correct. If I explained it, I'll get her angry……I mean wouldn't that be boring. Well, there's a lot of things that was done with you since the time that you were teleported to a different world……I mean, you're really walking under a difficult fate huh. There's also that I got interested in you. Ah, that's right, that's right, it's about the thesaurus points huh. When you were thrown here, the 100 numbers it had fallen by 7, and fell by 4 during the fight with Cerberus, fell by 3 during the fight with the No Life King, and fell by 3 with the reunion with me. Total of, 17 points falling, and the current number is 83. Ahh, the requirement to be recognized was cleared when it fell under 90 if I'm correct huh……. well, you're going to know the results very soon. However, the activation is random so it's not something that you should rely on alright」

「……things done? ……oh, well, you probably don't have plans on answering that properly right?」

With a very wide smile, the God nodded.

「——that's correct. Anyways, you need to clear the remaining five floors. If you complete the requirements, I would once again appear in front of you when the time comes」

「Goodness……you're really——hey, eh?! Oi?!」

——and.

Junpei was standing in a dome-shaped space.

Fresh leaves that tickles his nose. If said in Japan, it's about the first of summer, it might be close to the smell surrounding a stream.

Well, in that space full of the fresh fragrant smell of greens, Junpei was standing there.

Most of the surroundings were forests, but in the direction ahead his sight, he could see grasslands that spread, and

words fell out from his mouth.

「Well then, when I noticed it……God already disappeared」

Settlements that spread in front of him, Junpei observed that very carefully.

The times when he felt the smell of a civilization, it was the second time since he was thrown into this labyrinth.

In the settlements, tents like the ones that are used by nomadic tribe like Mongols called Ger was concentrated.

「And, a welcome of guys that seem to be friendly……huh」

As he had said, he could see a few men that came out of the tent approaching him while waving their hands.

Junpei shrugged his shoulder and whispered as if he spat out.

「It's really——a very poorly made story」

# Episode – Noriko's Revenge ▼

My name is Tatsumiya Noriko, 17 years old.

After an unexpected turn of events, together with few of my classmates, I am a high school girl that was sent to a different world that has a fantastic vibe.

And unfortunately, the world that we were sent to, it wasn't the usual Japanese fantasy world, one that is slow and leisure fantasy.

In short words, it was a dark fantasy-like world……where gluttony, lust, and the desire to control squirms, and if there were a fight, brains and internal organs would spew——it was that kind of world.

In the slums, girls that are under 10, or maybe "boys", would sell their body to eat a single chunk of bread.

And when it comes to demi-humans like elves and dwarves, they have no human rights, and their villages are hunted at once——it was that kind of world.

For instance, elves. Elf women who were hunted would become sex slaves. No, it might've been better if it was a woman. Well, it's no doubt that it's hell though. Until their appearance would last, at least, they could continue on being sex slaves.

Because like men, they would be used as "food" after all.

That's right, food.

No one knows who said it first, but it seems like there's a tradition that the elves' organs are special medicine for longevity.

That's why, something that is called elf cuisine is developed in this world. Things like deep fried or tempura, stew or "sashimi", things like that.

And, currently, not only their organs, but other than the bones and hair,

everything is circulating as food……also, the most popular and most expensive part that is being sold is the shoulder roast.

It's laughable right. Where did the longevity medicine go huh……un, this world is currently, it only means——

——it's what you call, the situation that it's already too late.

Well, just like that the elves are being done one-sidedly, but the condition of the human and elves relationships, aren't you curious why did it become like that?

In the first place, even if you say demi-human, not only elves, but there are also races like beast-kin and dwarves right.

And, if it's only magic powers and physical strength, they have a pretty much higher level than humans.

For instance, beast-kin has reflexes that overwhelm that of the humans, and the humans cannot follow the elves' aptitude in magic. Of course, it's only comparing in the general level, though……

Then, if you're asking why are they being so ridiculously oppressed…… it's what you call the tyranny of the majority. They are able to push back the difference in skills using numbers, and if there are numbers geniuses are also born……that's why, it's comparing generally.

And.

The ones you call demi-humans, most of them have a very long lifespan. So much, that it's normal for grandpas older than a millennium exists.

And, even long before when the humans start to use stone weapons, their evolution as a species had already stopped.

Meaning, without receiving the effects of the fruit of wisdom, or which you can also call as the devil's fruit that spoils humans, without destroying the environment, they did not develop unneeded civilization, and they had a perfect harmony with nature.

As the result, harmonically and very stable, the peaceful and blissful

times had flowed.

And what appeared at that times, were humans……

In this world, the humans, just like the insects on Earth, they repeated cycles of short life spans, and they evolved with abnormal speeds using their vigorous fecundity.

But, after all, the gap between the battle strength of individuals are clear compared to the demi-humans. That's why at first, the elves, and other demi-humans did not feel a sense of urgency against humans, and with the new race, the humans, they accepted the nature as it was.

And even the humans themselves, just like the times when they were monkeys, they spent their times not getting involved with the demi-humans that has an overwhelming difference in battle strength as much as possible.

That's right, only at first.

And……in an eternal time, for humans, that was really an eternal time.

However, for the demi-humans who spent their times very slowly, a time that was not that long.

The humans, their weapons evolved from stone weapons to copper weapons, and advanced to iron weapons, they perfect their equipments in terms of battles, and at the same time, from hunting to agriculture, raising domestic animals, and stable supply of food sources……

——inevitably, their population exploded.

The demi-humans, in the process of their evolution, they had various kinds adjustments to maintain their harmony with nature. And their reproduction ability, it was only about one might be born for every few hundred years.

Compared to that, the humans had their children born one next to the other, increasing their numbers.

And finally, as if it was natural, they launched an invasion war to the

native people, the demi-humans.

Even how many men die in war, humans that re-supplied their soldiers with an inexhaustible supply.

As a result, the humans won, and the demi-humans lost.

And the demi-humans are pushed to the frontiers together with an inequality treaty, and they have been stolen of all kinds of human rights(it is very doubtful if that kind of concept exists in this world in the first place), and they were thoroughly persecuted.

And the best example of that is——

——the rights of the human nobles, to slaughter the elves that are lower inhabitants.

In short, if it was a human noble, there is no need for a reason to kill an elf.

Just like the eagle hunting during the Edo period, they hunt “animals” as their hobby right.

「My Lord! I have found an elf!」

「You did it, Gramps! Shoot the arrows! Don’t forget to set fire to their settlements! It is Elf Soup tonight!」

「My Lord! What will we do with the women!」

「I will be the very first one! I’ll give it to you after that! And if you get fed up, sell it to brothels in the town!!」

Something like that, well, that happens in reality.

Un, I think that you’ve probably guessed pretty much of it hearing up to this.

——how stupid, this world is.

And, I also, well……right now, I’m under a little bit heavy situation you

know.

If you're asking how heavy it is……

——un, for start, my body was modified a lot.

Surgery without anesthesia, that's no joke. How painful it was……I will just skip it here.

Well rather than that, I immediately lost my consciousness at the start of the surgery, so It's just that I don't really remember.

And, if you're asking why was a surgery was done……

As I've told earlier, we, from the modern times on Earth, were sent to this world full of trash.

The faces were, a few delinquents, one bullied child, and me.

And the worst problem here was, to be able to survive in this world……I mean, the strength that can endure battles——it was that the only ones who were given that status was the few delinquents.

The bullied child and I had a shitty status, and it was only less than the powers of villagers here and there for a bit.

The way of this world was the strong has the justice, and the bullied child and I——no, he's my childhood friend though——although our brains were comparatively decent, the cards that were given to us, is something like a bad hand in poker.

That's why, for me not to die, and to be able to survive, I sold my body to the leader of the delinquents. And to the literally what you call as a death trap, I deceived my childhood friend.

Thinking of it right now, I think it was really stupid.

If you're asking what is stupid, it was that the steering of my own life, I left it up to the nastiest and worst, to the boss of the delinquents whose name is Kido Shouta.

And the result of that——on top of my body being played around all that he wanted, I was thrown away. No, specifically, I was sold to a slave market. The reason, Kido said, “I got fed up……”, it was that.

For some reason, there was a premium on different world teleporter, I was sold for a very good price. Even now, I can’t forget the smiling expression of Kido, when he heard the hammer price.

My first master, was a scatology pervert. And there, I gained the mentality where I can pretty much accept anything……probably.

But that master was someone who wants the innocence of it, so I was immediately sold again to the market. I was bought by my second master. And I got frozen.

After all, that was one that is more than four meters……it was a giant.

The tip of the head that was as large as a baby’s head, honestly, there was no way for it to come inside.

——that’s why there’s the surgery.

My belly was modified, and two fists can now easily enter it.

After the surgery, uhh, I laughed. I really laughed. After all, it really enters very well, many things. And there was a tremendous thing that happened my hip joint, how can I say this, it’s appearance was something that you can’t look at directly.

It was even strange that I maintained my sanity, it was really funny.

Actually, at that time, I secretly had a poison that has an immediate deadly effect. But rather than that was for myself, it was something that I bought with all of my money at the time to give to my childhood friend.

It’s really too late right now, but at the time when I deceived my childhood friend to a trap, there was a conflict and pain in my heart. That’s why that childhood friend who was thrown into the worst labyrinth, so that he could suicide when he encountered something more painful than death, I thought of giving it to him at the end.

But, there was also Kido's impression, and most of all, giving that to him itself(No, making him enter there itself is just like telling him to die though……but, somehow, u～n……), I had mixed feelings about it, and I couldn't give it to him after all.

And, what I want to say is, I thought, for many, many times, to use that poison. But——I didn't use it after all.

More than I thought, a human's, I mean, my mentality was very strong, there are times when I get hurt, get depressed, get hopeless, and there are really difficult things, and many, many times, death flashed in my mind, but strangely, it didn't reach where I would really die.

Well, it's just, wanting to die or not, and maintaining my sanity or not was a different story.

I was kept by my second master, and when my belly was being played around, for me to

maintain my sanity, my own eyes, with my own will, with my own fingers, I crushed it myself you know.

Because I didn't want to see disgusting things more than that. Because I didn't want to get crazy.

That's why, I became a resident of the world of darkness, and decided to become a doll.

In the end, the giant was fed up of me after that, and once again, I was sold to the slave market.

My price since I was already a bizarre type, was already less than a hundredths of the first price.

Honestly, I wanted to shout in that place.

Something like,「It's enough, kill me already!」.

But even when I was thinking of that, I who can't choose suicide is well, it's really "that" right……well, that doesn't matter huh……and, I was sold with a hammer price of eight gold coins.

Really, I was surprised.

After all, the one who bought me, was one who once was my classmate――

――Sakagami Tatsuya. It was Kido's comrade.

When I heard the story from him, it looks like Tatsuya liked my with the meaning of love from the time when we were in Japan.

But, he would only observe since he couldn't go against Kido, no, he could only do that, but even that's said, the price when I was sold in the slave market at first was too expensive so there was no way for him to buy, and this time, he finally was able to buy me. I mean, he said that he was able to save me.

After that, Tatsuya took me to his house, and guided me to the bedroom.

Being given a warm meal and bath, I was able to have relief there.

Tatsuya saw that I was being sold, and he really felt frustrated about it.

That's why he made a deal with the devil, and he gained a rare skill called【Clairvoyance】in exchange of his left arm.

He said that because of that, he was able to find me.

Honestly, tears fell out. I was saved……and thank you for saving me, doing things that much, thank you for finding me, I said.

For many, many times, I hugged Tatsuya and screamed thanks while crying.

With this, I would finally be treated as a human. Since I was saved by someone who was also Japanese.

It was all hardships, and my body got strange because of the surgery, but, even so, from

now on……I thought.

And, there, the funniest thing in my life occurred there you know.

Tatsuya slapped me who was crying and screaming for gratefulness and happiness, and pushed me down on the bed just like that.

When I was in panic, what do you think he said?

「Doing it with perverts so much, you're not saying you're not going to do it with me right? Well, don't worry, I won't do something bad if you just behave」

In an instant, I didn't understand anything that was going on, but I immediately understood.

Ahh, this guy also, he's not thinking of treating me as a human, he literally, with its meaning itself, he just bought a sex slave……I thought.

While looking at my eyes that had lost their colors, Tatsuya took off his belt, and took out his genitalia——I had sensed.

And, with one word, with a vulgar tone, he told me.

「……ck it」He said

With those words, something inside me had broke. That's why, I, including Kido, I serviced Tatsuya using all of the techniques that my masters up until now let me learn.

And——I placed the poison tablet in my mouth, and pressed on Tatsuya's anal.

Very, very scrupulously, I attacked it.

Not that I forced myself not wanting to get hit, or not that I was protected, for the first time in my life, with a dark killing intent, I continued to press on Tatsuya's anal.

No, maybe the word attack might be, more correct.

The absorption rate of medicines is faster for rectal administration compared to oral intake. For instance, the case of death of ingesting the

alcohol Russians like from the anal, happened seriously speaking.

My level is 1.

Tatsuya is level 52, and he is also B-Rank as an adventurer. He's in the level where you can call him "strong", and our difference in strength is that large.

But, Tatsuya died so easily.

His mouth foamed, he continuously convulsed, and immediately died after.

I killed a person for the first time.

My face that appears in the window was very ugly, but I could see as if it was refreshed for a little bit.

Eh? You're asking why I could see although the light of my eyes was lost? Well of course——

——it's because I stole【Clairvoyance】.

Killing Tatsuya, and the instance when the light of my eyes returned in the shape of magic eyes, I noticed. That the skill that he, my childhood friend had, that I also had the skill hunt ability.

And, I properly understood, how to use the skill hunt ability very well, and how to live in this world.

No job aptitude, that's why a cheat ability——and a shitty status in return.

Or maybe, at that time, my childhood friend that had the same skill hunt ability——not sending Junpei to the Interstice Labyrinth, without moving with compromises or calculations, it there was the choice where I followed my heart honestly and fled together with him——

A really, very, very, very deep sigh.

「Everyone, everyone……they stole from me. But……I was the one who

stole from someone from the start……I'm sorry, Junpei. At that time, there was really the choice for us to run away together right……probably, that was……the correct one. If we did it very well, right about now, we would probably have displayed our powers and abilities in this world…… something like piling up achievements in the adventurer's guild, and gradually protecting the settlements of demi-humans, and resisting the unreasonable system of this world……. that kind of path, there was also that kind of friendly path」

In the past's branching point……future and present that might've been possible.

But right now, something that is absolutely impossible in the present, and future.

Tears fell.

Those were tears of delight, and acceptance of despair.

Tears for the hope from now on, and all of the things that were lost up until now.

Washing down everything, wailing like a raging stream.

「But, everything's, too late……. Junpei died because of me, and the karma from that attacked be」

I closed my eyes.

I can feel everything inside a radius of tens of meters as if I could feel them with my hand. And furthermore, closing my eyes invoking to find things and people, it was capturable if the target was within a few kilometers.

As expected, of the rare skill that was gained from the devil's contract.

「【Clairvoyance】. No, this is the ability of a skill hunter……really, it's overwhelming that it's so funny. My goodness, really, everything, everything's too late. It was too late to notice a lot of things」

As if to let myself hear, I gripped my fist.

「But, still, it's not yet that lethally too late. The skill hunt, and my weapon as a woman. For a second and third time……if I sleep with a "strong one" that have a rare skill……I will be……」

I nodded hugely but slowly.

「More than this……I won't let anyone steal from me anymore, from now on, I will――」

Outside of the window, the time was deep in the night.

「――be the one who deprives」

While looking up at the full moon, I whispered with a crinkled smile, and with a hoarse voice, I said towards the sky.

「――Well then, the counterattack is from here. The revenge, to this world, and to everything……」

# Chapter 1 – The Traditional Village and Dragon Claw Troupe ▼

Inside the tent that it looked like he was warmly welcomed. It looks like it's the largest tent even within the settlement. It probably has about the area of a 20-tatami-room.

There's a simple carpet was spread, and some kind of various kinds of food on a place was on top of that. It looks like this settlement doesn't have a culture of using tables.

The suffocating smell of the wild vegetables being fried in oil, the very strong smell that stimulates appetite coming from the dried meat sauteed with garlic.

As if to surround Junpei, about 30 people. In each of their cups, something that's probably grape wine was poured very plentifully. A few people who were drinking at a high pace was cheerfully laughing with a loud voice.

This current situation, it is——

——a banquet.

「Well well, please help yourself」

As he was told, Junpei drank until his cup was halved, and received a serving of wine from an old man.

While the bald old man was pouring the wine, he was making a friendly smile making the

wrinkles in his face more wrinkled.

The clothes that the old man was wearing, it's a native costume made of hemp fibers dyed red, in Earth, it might be close to stole that India's Buddhist priests wear.

Everyone other than Junpei is wearing that, but the tint of the old man in his side has especially stronger redness, and vibrancy.

That means, the old man has a high stature——it means that he's the settlement's chief.

Confirming that that Junpei was eating the food that they took out very pleasantly, the old man nodded very contently from the bottom of his heart.

「Isn't it delicious?」

「Yeah, it's yummy? I mean, are you that happy with me eating it very deliciously?」

"Haha", the old man broke into a smile and nodded.

「Making our guests pleased is the meaning of our existence after all. If we cannot make the guest content, we cannot do our job」

「Making them pleased is your work?」

Was the fermentation of the wine poured not that good, there's a flavor of acetic acid mixed in it……but his eating habits weren't that good, so that tasted not that bad strangely.

The food also, there were very delicious.

If there's a good food it's natural for the liquor to get fast, so Junpei's cup immediately got

empty.

Even just looking at the banquet, the level of this floor's lifestyle is very clear that it's high. The quality of food might even be better than the outside world's. Well, compared to Japan it's very lower though.

While thinking of that, Junpei heard the old man's story unconsciously.

「……and, it was like that. Wanderer in the interstice……dear traveler. Can you let us have your cooperation?」

After thinking for a while, Junpei opened his mouth.

「Is everything that you told right now is true……? It's unbelievable……」

「Everything is true」

「No, wait a minute……really, in the deepest part of this labyrinth……a group that aims to clear it, is moving as an organization……do they really exist?」

「In the meaning, in the deepest part of the range that humanity have reached, that group exists……the answer can only be yes. Their total number is about 100. And that group is called the Dragon Claw Troupe. In the floor far deeper than here, although slowly, they should be breaking through while taking a safety margin. In the time that they have cleared a high difficulty floor, they might even create settlements or towns there…… even if it would take a long time」

Junpei placed a finger between his eyebrows, and asked further while trying to be very composed.

「Since it's deeper than here means it has incomparable difficulty right? I can't think that a hundred people can reach the place that different in dimensions」

The old man mischievously smiled.

「Well well. Isn't it true that you have reached here right now?」

Once again, Junpei's cup empties, and grape wine was poured.

To the way Junpei drank it down, the old man nodded many times very happily.

「No, well, that's true though……I mean, I'm not normal, I mean, I didn't come with normal ways……」

When Junpei got stuck with his words, the old man smiled again.

「The probability of being able to reach here, is only a few percent even more than ten S-Rank adventurers grouped, it's that kind world. If you're

solo, the survival rate would be cut to below one percent. Without needing to say, that number just shows how much you're in a different dimension」

「Then, why……more than a hundred in that place……」

Even while asking that, Junpei has grasped most of it from what he heard from the God earlier.

The Sage that the God spoke of, and the group that aims to clear it called『Dragon Claw Troupe』.

It's impossible not associating both of them. Spending unimaginable lengths of time to improve his skills, if it's that Great Sage that has gained that enormous amount of knowledge and strength, even regular way of attacks might cut through. It's natural to think of that.

And not caring about Junpei's speculation, the old man innocently smiled.

「This village's meaning of existence……it is to send warriors to the『Dragon Claw Troupe』, no, to the deepest part of this labyrinth」

「Warrior?」

*Kokuri*, the old man nodded.

「The strong ones that were able to clear various kinds of ordeals up until here, they probably wish for them to be their strength. It is an evident truth that the deeper this labyrinth goes, the more people die right? Really as if they were trash」

「Well that's true. In short, they need to resupply their combatants huh?」

「That is correct」

「But, how will you take me to the deepest part?」

Even while saying that, Junpei already had something in mind.

It means, in the middle of the tent. There, extending to a huge pillar, that pillar as the center, there's a magic circle drawn. And, on the east, west, south, north of the magic circle, there are magic tools that looks like

suspicious jars or parcels that were placed.

Actually, he was activating【Appraisal Eyes】at those, but the results aren't good.

Long story short, the appraisal result were——

——Cannot be Appraised.

Junpei's【Appraisal Eyes】skill level has the highest point of super-class, so he should be able to measure most of the materials in this world and their effects.

Most probably, that magic circle is the one that would send them to the forefront, but he couldn't see at all what kind of magic technique are placed in that magic circle.

The old man's words continued as Junpei's guess.

「They have gained numerous techniques that transcend human knowledge. That is one kind of it——it is the magic circle for teleporting goods. If the conditions are met, it is possible to teleport adventurers to the deepest part of the front lines of the clearance anytime. And a few times every year, that magic circle shines, and sends goods from the deepest part instead」

「The goods reach them?」

「It is not like were are doing this for show or for madness. First, the thing that this floor overwhelmingly does not have enough of……is salt. And we also lack sugar as a luxury item」

"Lack of salt……", Junpei's jaw dropped.

That is, more than the lack of protein in Katrina's Village, isn't that lethal in a meaning, Junpei had a cold sweat.

It means, every resident of this village, their lifeline is being held by the group that they say is in depths of the labyrinth……

「The difficulty of this labyrinth can only be called as a nightmare. The

group aiming to clear it in the front lines is always beside death, and they should have a deep problem for lack of people. So there……we are searching for new warriors」

「……so?」

「It is, between the deepest part of the labyrinth and this village……give and take. First, we will send high leveled strong ones to the front lines」

Junpei continued those words as if he got to the point.

「And they will send daily necessities like salt and sugar」

「If we were not able to send an adventurer more than level 500 in a certain after a certain period……the salt that is sent would decrease. And the result of that, ten percent of this village's population will die from lack of salt content」

"And there……", the old man continued.

「I will ask you again. Can you let us have your cooperation? That magic circle……only ones that have exceeded level 500 can go through it. If that is not exceeded, we can't send people even if we want to」

The group got quiet, and gave their attention to Junpei.

In their bloodshot eyes, it was very clear, that right now, they have not sent an adventurer before the time limit of the next goods will be sent.

But Junpei smiled carelessly and spat out.

「My bad……but I'll refuse」

「That is, with what reason……」

He took a glance to the food that was taken out, and Junpei shook his head sidewards.

「Everything's something I heard for the first time. Where does an idiot who would risk their life for that ridiculous thing exist? And, the authenticity of the teleportation magic itself is doubtful. If you guys were

trying to kill me……for example, if that magic circle is an activation of a magic that forcefully paralyzes, I won't be able to do anything」

Inside the tent, echoed a few sighs.

Junpei, in the case of something happens, he gripped Cerberus's Canine that he hid in his waist with his right hand and got cautious of the surrounding.

If it doesn't go the usual way, make them follow using force, that's a popular way to negotiate in this world, so he got cautious of the danger of that.

But, opposite to his expectations, the old man didn't lose his smile, and said as if to feel too bad for a little.

「I see, what you say is true. Well well, it is the banquet that we had prepared for you. A guest is a guest even if he refuse. Please enjoy for today」

Junpei nodded lightly to the old man's reaction, and glanced at the food once again.

And smiled.

No, it might be more correct to say he gloated mischievously.

"Yareyare", Junpei shrugs his shoulder, activated【Appraisal Eyes】, and once again, observed the food that was taken out.

And spoke to himself with a small voice.

——well, really, in the situation where people might die from the lack of salt and other things in the future……you can only do that huh……

「That's thankful. I haven't eaten proper food recently you know……I'll say thanks honestly. So, the goods that are being sent from there……it looks like it's not only salt. Are women also being sent?」

While pointing at the one that exclusively serves Junpei and the old man from earlier, Junpei said with an astonished face.

A beautiful girl that you might look back if you meet her in the town.

Her age was probably about latter teens. Silver hair that looks like silk dyed thinly and brown skin, she's wearing see-through clothes that have frills just like an Arabian dancer.

The color of her eyes leaves an impression, it has colors that's about in the middle of silver and deep blue.

「I don't know how this village was created, she's the only girl that I saw since I came on this floor. And I can't even see the sign of children. If that is so――」

「You are correct. There're only men on this floor. And it's true that women are also being sent. but it is only for thanks sending high-level people……they are luxury goods, and doesn't have reproductive ability itself」

「Luxury goods……huh. There's really nothing good in this damn labyrinth」

The old man's expression, there was vulgarity mixed with it for the first time.

「That's right, they don't have reproduction abilities, but they have genitalia」

Junpei's head started to hurt a little, but the village chief continued his words without minding that.

「Well, that's why……there's no children on this floor. But, young and healthy children is needed for the village's survival. So there……the young ones that are going to be the villagers in the future are sent, but together with them, there's also mixed ones that are sent」

「Mixed ones?」

「Yes, cursed children」

「Cursed children?」

「That's right, cursed children. Children with silver hair, blue eyes, and brown skin. And they would be at the lowest level of the class system of this floor, meaning, slaves」

"Ahh", Junpei nodded.

「And so? What happens to that cursed children or whatever?」

「Hmm……the total number of this village's men is 200. The total number or cursed children are few……every night, it is waiting for their turn」

Inside this labyrinth, it is an environment where the people would be in abnormal states as if it was normal.

For that, Junpei doesn't have anything to say about it, and doesn't feel like intervening with it.

If there's a woman in an environment where there're only men……it's probably a natural phenomenon. Or maybe, it might be a little bit gentlemanly since they are waiting for their turn instead of attacking them the whole time.

Gentlemanly?……no, that's wrong, Junpei didn't miss it.

When the old man said "waiting for their turn", the girl's shoulder that was pouring wine in Junpei's cup trembled.

And that there were blue bruises and wounds are showing in the skin of the girl that can be

seen through her clothes.

——it's not only for the night. I'm sure that they're being abused with violence daily.

「And, she is……the reason that she's being treated like that is……other than her gender, it is only because her hair is silver and her eyes are blue on top of that huh?」

「Yes, that is correct. It is the rules from a long time ago」

“Ha～”, Junpei took out a sigh.

While staring at the girl, Junpei thought.

——She’s similar……he thought.

Fat, or maybe introvert. For himself who was bullied with only that reason and was thrown here, it was very similar.

Not only that, every night, she is being disgraced and on top of that, she is receiving violence daily because of ridiculous reasons and creates wounds all over her body.

「Oi, you……what’s your name?」

With a little troubled face, the serving girl looked at the old man.

Probably, she’s not being allowed to talk to the guest by herself.

*Kokuri*, the old man nodded, and the girl faced Junpei.

「……Kishin」

The girl answered bluntly and with a cold voice.

The instant their eyes met, Junpei felt that his heart was gouged.

They were eyes with beautiful deep blue colors that would make you hold your breath——but in those eyes, there were no “colors” at all.

They were, the same eye colors that he had seen every time he looks at himself in the mirror when he was a high school student, he thought.

「Oi, you……?」

「……what?」

「Are you……okay with that?」

“What is it”, the girl narrowed her beautiful eyebrows and shut up.

Was she trying to understand the meaning of the words she was asked, she was tilting her head lightly. That gesture was very lustrous.

And then, Kishin nodded as if she got it.

「……today's partner, you mean? If it's about that, if you're going to be my partner, I probably wouldn't need to do it with tens of people today. If it was going to be enough with one, I would even like to ask from my side」

To those words, Junpei shook his head sidewards.

At that time if he was correct, Noriko told him.

『Why aren't you fighting back? It's because you let them do all that they want that they

escalate』

To those words, what he would've thought himself.

And, even if he argued that with the girl who grew up in a very different environment and common sense, what would it be for.

He is only a passerby for the people who are living on this floor.

He doesn't have the rights or the duty to do something for this girl himself.

Thinking up until there, Junpei took out a few pots from his item box.

They were pots that he took from Katrina's Village that has a height of 50 cm and 10 cm diameter. That, to the girl——he gave it to Kishin.

「……this is?」

「What do you think?」

「……a pot」

Kishin answered Junpei without changing her expression and a cold voice.

「Isn't that just how it looks……there's salt inside. I refused to go to the front line……but I'll give you this in the return for welcoming be this much. I'll give half to the old men, and half to you」

There was a commotion within the group.

Salt really is probably a valuable thing on this floor. Very carefully, Kishin opened the lid of the pot, plunged her finger in the white grains, and tasted it.

And her eyes widened to the stimulation of the salt, and said this.

「……can I……really take it?」

「Yeah, I don't mind. You probably don't know about it……but something like this, it literally has mountains of them in some place」

Even if he said that Kishin and the villagers would have half each, Junpei doesn't think that that would be protected.

However, even if everything was taken by the villagers later, her treatment might change for a little, and if there was this plenty, it might be able to go around and reach her.

——this isn't likely for me.

It's just a whim, Junpei smiled deprecatingly.

However, receiving that smile, Kishin also smiled.

It looks like her cheek muscles were crinkling for a little——it means, that she, in living on this floor, had not used the muscles that are being used for smiling at all.

Clumsily and awkwardly, but really making a wide smile, she said with her usual small tone of voice.

「……thank you」

It was an unrealistic smile, that almost gouged his unguarded heart.

While Junpei was being flurried, the old man talked to him while bowing down.

「Thank you for giving us this much salt……it looks like you have taken a liking of Kishin……please enjoy for tonight」

And there, Junpei stood up as if he clearly got offended.

「……I mean, I'm already full so I'll leave now. I also need to go to the next floor」

And then, the village chief stood up in a hurry, and took Junpei's hand.

「No way, you are rushing too much. Please at least stay for the night, at least the morning tomorrow……and also, it is more if you have salt with you. We are going to list up and check the food and goods that can be exchanged until the morning. Of course, the exchange rate will be up to you……so please……please think of it as saving lives, please stay for the night……」

Junpei who heard that scoffed.

「No, it looks like "that" is in all of this food, so I'll decline to exchange salt modestly」

「"That"……you say?」

He checked the route up until the tent's entrance.

As if there was no problem even if things get rough, Junpei made a

fearless smile.

「Don't tell me……are you really thinking I haven't noticed? I'll tell you this, even if I stay here not only for a day, even a week, to me——I won't have addiction symptoms you know? And with that, it's better for yourselves to step back while I'm still smiling」

The old man got a cold sweat.

「On the top of knowing that……you drank that, you say?」

"Ahh", Junpei nodded and smiled innocently.

And, pointed at containers of the wine and food placed there.

「Really, the one called the Great Sage on the front lines is ridiculous…… the drugs mixed with this……it's not a kind of magic or alchemy at all——it's the result of chemical reactions, it's something that absolutely wouldn't be produced if it's not aimed for……it's amphetamines」

While the group was stunned and dropping their jaws, Junpei continued without caring about that.

「Even if I tell you oral intake stimulant, you won't know it huh. Or maybe, are you using needles usually? Well, that doesn't matter. Most probably, you were just using the luxury items as drugs that can make you feel good without anything. I have【All Status Ailments Resistance】after all. This level of poison won't have a damn effect. Of course, I also won't get drunk」

While the old men were looking down, they could only hear Junpei's talk.

"Anyways", Junpei continued further.

「Letting them stay for a few days to a few weeks pretending it's an invitation. When they noticed it they're already pretty much drugged so they can't run away anymore. And if you finish them there, well, you can just say whatever and send them to the front lines huh. For example, after making them completely addicted to a stronger addictive drug, you'd tell them that they can only gain the drug if they go to the front lines…… something like that」

As if he couldn't say anything back, the old man's face wrinkled.

"And, with that…", *Pan*, Junpei clapped his hands loudly.

「I ate good food after a long time. Thanks. The salt, you can just think of it as my

thanks」

A situation that can get to worst in an instant. But, as if Egypt's Moses, the people opened their way. In reality, there isn't anyone who has enough strength to do deal with Junpei in this village.

「……wait」

While everyone was stunned, Kishin stood up, and run with a trot, chasing after Junpei who left the tent.

But, the village chief's voice echoed inside the tent.

「No! Do not touch that person! Do not chase after him! You would not be hurt if you do

not touch him!」

Kishin answered with a dumbfounded face.

「……I can't understand what you're saying. I am……only seeing him off. No, I want to see him off」

「Oi, I told you to stop! Don't go near that man……!」

Not listening to the bewildered old man's words, Kishin ran after Junpei just like that.

「So, why are you following me?」

「……to see you off」

They were already about five kilometers away from the settlement.

While walking in the grassland path, Junpei made an astonished face to Kishin who was

following him just like a dog.

「Then, I'll ask it in a different way. Why do you want to see me off?」

While walking, the girl that marked him and stuck with him within a meter's distance, said this while shyly blushing her cheeks.

「……it's the first time……someone was kind to me. Is that not enough of a reason?」

Together with those words, Kishin grabbed the hem of Junpei's mantle.

About that, he didn't say anything back, instead, he made a guilty expression.

Kishin blushed a little more since Junpei didn't dislike it, and nodded very happily.

And the two walked silently just like that, and finally reached the end of the floor.

The end of the path, there was the usual wooden door in the boulder.

Going through there, the usual hell is going to continue most probably.

——honestly, if it was only going to the front lines, I might've not refused their request.

If he's going to be a member of the group that aims to clear the labyrinth with proven strength, it probably has a higher survival rate compared to continuing this path in solo.

However, Junpei thought that most probably, if he was convinced with what they said and went to the front lines……

"Anyways", Junpei asked with a very deep sigh.

「As I've thought, your daily life, uhmm……was it terrible?」

*Kokuri*, Kishin nodded.

「I have no time to rest in the day's chores. The food are also only ones that livestock eats, and the men's liquid that I can intake during the night's work. On top of that, I don't have much of sleep」

More than that, Junpei couldn't ask her anything anymore.

She's also walking the Shura's Path.

——but that is a problem that she needs to overcome herself, and I don't have words to say to her.

It is in the middle of the night right now. Her silk silver hair that was faintly illuminated by the light moss, was ephemeral just like the sakura blossoms in a spring's night.

Junpei held his breath to that beauty.

Even so, there's nothing that he can do in this situation. If he cared about this girl more than this, it would be a very troublesome thing……, Junpei had that conclusion, and opened his mouth.

「So……I'm going now……」

「……wait. I have something to say」

「I guessed so」

To Junpei's expecting words who shrugged, she continued.

「……I want you to take me with you」

「The reason is?」

「……I hate being treated as a slave. I hate hairy gramps. I hate doing it with the men in the village……and most of all……I hate that……no one would treat me kindly here. I, who was treated kindly by you……am very happy」

Being illuminated by a faint light, there were tears swelling before one

notices.

「Well, I didn't need to ask the reason huh」

「……un」

While huge tears fell to the rocky road, she answered.

——that was a happening in an instant.

Junpei used all of his speed to go around behind her, and while placing the Cerberus's Canine to her neck, he said this.

「That's why, you left the village to kill me right?」

「……eh?」

The edge of the canine that is being thrust to her throat.

And there, Junpei said as if to joke around.

「You made a surprised face again. That's a bad joke you know? You were really on doing(killing) it in the first place」

And to that, Kishin made a crinkled smile.

「……I can really see how terrible of a path that you have walked up until now……to think that you would even doubt me」

「Even if I'm like this, I had a lot of thoughts about killing each other you know. I have a proper reason to doubt you, you know」

「……reason?」

And there, Junpei kicked Kishin's back.

Her stomach was probably stimulated from the back.

"Ughu", as if her stomach fluids had gone up, she crouched there while holding her mouth.

「Raise both of your hands first. And kneel there. That's right, drop down next. Lastly, place both of your hands behind your head」

He mounted Kishin from her back, and Junpei placed the canine to her carotid artery.

「Why do you think, that I noticed that those food were full of drugs?」

「……I don't know」

「That's the reason for your defeat……it's【Appraisal Eyes】. And I used that skill when you followed me」

「……【Appraisal Eyes】?」

「Other than inorganic matters, this skill also activates on monsters and animals other

than humans」

And there, blood drained from Kishin's expression.

Junpei told her with a voice mixed with a little sadness.

「Hey……Kishin? No……Homunculus?」

She shook her head sidewards as if to completely give up.

「……it's all over, I can't do anything anymore. Then, the reason why we're made beautiful……do you know?」

「Yeah, it's a side-effect that you were so popular with the villagers. Really……there's nothing good huh? After all, the real use that you were sent to this floor……is to be a decoy woman with death」

The result of Junpei's【Appraisal Eyes】are the following.

【Oroboros Homunculus】

**Danger Specification ▼**
B+

**Characteristics ▼**
Homunculus is, an artificial life made by a high leveled magician, or one that is called as a spirit. Using an adult male's sperm and an adult woman's period's cocktail as a vessel, it has similar characteristics to the undead, but unlike the undead, they have the characteristics to grow.

However, during this individual was created, the DNA taken from the Oroboros Serpent's ovary that has the strongest poison within the Interstice Labyrinth. Meaning, they have the strongest neurotoxin, Palytoxin(ParitoKISHIN) inside their body.

They are hermaphrodite, and their genitals are camouflaged very well, and when they decided the target they're going to kill, they will secrete poison in the form of semen if they were in male form and sexual fluids if they were in female form, it is their usual trick to kill their target during intercourse.

They can kill someone who is very stronger than them if they induce a certain amount. And because of that, their battle strength is very low, but their danger is specified as B+.

A very, very deep sigh.

「Homunculus huh……well, it's a difficult being huh. And, including you, those in that group that they said aims to clear the labyrinth exists as a sacrifice. And that's not wrong since drugs are being sent as a luxury item. And, even they're a sacrificial pawn……the settlement needs defense at least. Many adventurers……I mean, well, the adventures that are able to reach here are eccentric psycho bastards. There should be more violent

ones in them……and that village also has a reason to exist. It's also troublesome to make it again if it's crushed」

「……correct」

"And", Junpei said as if to spit out.

「Even so, there's no way that they can leave someone who has the strength that's effective in the front lines her. So there, you're the one who's sent as the defense powers. When the adventurers who came here started to massacre or pillage, you who's the most beautiful is going to be raped first. And sending semen, or sexual fluids……the opponent will die」

「……correct. It's already over. Do what you want to me. Kill me if you want」

「And there, I have a doubt」

「……doubt?」

「The village's chief, he ordered you not to come to me. You ignored that and followed me」

「……what are you saying?」

「The reason that you're going to kill me. The village's chief order, it's really an emergency if someone like you go against that. Well, that's……the start of the bad luck though」

Mixed with sobbing, a voice difficult to hear overflowed there.

「……in a place like this, in a life like this, I hate to end my life with only that. I'm not an object. That's why, I……didn't care if I'd die……I wanted to be sent to the front lines. And I……wanted to win my freedom on my own. To reach the place that is not here……I wanted to fight. I wanted to struggle」

「……」

「That gate is impartial to all creations……even humans, even homunculus……if my level was enough, I can get through」

「In short, you wanted to level up killing me?」

In a face down position, while trembling, the girl said the same line again

「……correct」

「It means, you……?」

「I——wanted to go to the outside world. I wanted to know the outside world. That's——all of it」

And there, Junpei stood up, released the Cerberus's Canine from her neck, and went away from that place slowly.

Not knowing what was happening, she stood up with a dumbfounded face.

Junpei thought .

"Ahh, she's really the same with me before……", No, compared to himself who didn't do anything until he was sent to this labyrinth, she was way better.

That's why——

「……I'll let you off」

With a dumbfounded expression, she answered.

「Eh?」

Releasing her, and while Junpei was walking to the next floor's door, he waved to Kishin with his back.

「There's no merit for me killing you……leave before I change my mind. And, haven't you noticed?」

「Haven't noticed……?」

「It's a shitty story that you're going to be used for clearing the labyrinth in the front lines just like pawns, but as you wished, if you're really going to

be used as a pawn, you'd still be saved. But……even if you were sent there, do you know that there's no guarantee that you're going to participate in the front lines? In short, your value as an experience points itself——, oi!!?」

And there, Kishin took out a knife that has 10cm blade length from her waist and charged towards Junpei.

That knife, it was drenched with the sexual fluids that she secreted earlier, and even in its freshness, it has enough poison to have an effect.

Junpei's skill is only【All Status Ailments Resistance】, and it is not nullification.

To the real poison, if that precious thing was sent inside his body using a knife, he wouldn't be able to walk away with no damage.

That's why——

——*Pan* a dry sound.

That was the merciless shooting sound of the『S & W M57』forty one caliber magnum.

Junpei who had an experience killing a mythological beast, and her who had only lived as a slave in the village, it was very clear that there was an unparalleled gap between their battle strengths.

「You stupid idiot……why……to that much……」

「……I understand what you're trying to say. Being sent to the front lines with dimensional teleportation, after that. I thought of that for many times. But……even so……, I……to a place, not this village……」

Leaving those words, having her left chest pierced with a bullet, she made a pool in her place with the blood that gushed out like a fountain, and stopped moving after a few seconds.

In the blood pool that spreads in the ground, Junpei embraced her.

And——downheartedly said as if to spit.

「In the end……even if you attack carelessly in your current situation, this will happen if you don't have the strength……huh. Hey, Noriko? That day, at that time, before we came to this world……what should've I done? Being weak……even if I did something to Kido, would've something, really changed?」

And, he continued.

「I don't fucking know……」

**名前** 武田順平　　**シソーラス値** 81

レベルアップ: 999 → 999

取得ボーナスポイント: 0

## ステータス

職業: スキル・ハンター　レベル: 999

ＨＰ: 1840　ＭＰ: 175

攻撃力: 255（順平の基本値：5）　防御力: 5

回避率: 3000

## 装備

メイン: 魔獣の犬歯（神話級）
※攻撃力+250/サブ武器併用時攻撃力+245/神殺しの属性

サブ: S&W M57　四十一口径マグナム（国宝級）
※強化なし/弾丸の補充は魔力による

マント: 身かわしの羽衣（賢者装備）
※基礎回避力に常時 1.5 倍のパッシブ

## スキル

（スキルスロット残6）

◉鑑定眼（超級）
◉全状態異常耐性　◉解体（超級）　◉モンスター・テイム（初級）
◉擬態（超級）

## 属性

不死者の王
※体組織変性。不死者と同じく、その体液、血液、及び、肉が強烈な神経毒となる

## 使役魔

◉ピュア・スライム　◉パンデミック・スライム

**Name** : Takeda Junpei Thesaurus Points : 81

Level Up : 999 → 999

Bonus Points Gained : 0

**Status**

Job : Skill Hunter Level : 999

HP : 1840 MP : 175

Attack Power : 255 (Junpei's basic stat : 5) Defense Power : 5
※Sub weapon equipped :245

Evasion Efficiency : 3000

**Equipments**

Main : Magic Beast's Canine (Mythological Class)
※Infused with God Killer attribute Sub : S&W M57 Forty-one caliber Magnum (National Treasure Class)
※Bullets replenished using magic powers. No strengthening Mantle: Cloak of Evasion (Sage Equipment)
※Passive that increases the basic Evasion Efficiency to 1.5 times **Skill (Skill Slot: 6 Remaining)**

- Appraisal Eyes (Super-Class)
- All Status Ailments Resistance
- Butcher (Super-Class)
- Monster Tame (Beginner Class)
- Mimicry (Super-Class)

**Attributes**

Undead King
※Changing Body Composition. Just like an undead, its body fluid, blood, and, meat would become a very strong neurotoxin.

### Tamed Monsters

- Pure Slime
- Pandemic Slime

# Chapter 2 - The Phantom Forest and Kraken ▼

▼ ▼ ▼

My name is Henry Watson.

Walking on the way of the sword, I lived by the way of the sword……it's like bragging saying it myself, but I'm what you call a Master Swordsman.

In addition, I joined the Brave Party, I'm the one who gave the first attack to the Demon King, and created the beginning of consecutive attacks.

Well, honestly, I'm the world's strongest Sword Saint that is recognized by everyone.

And then……well, after the Demon King Subjugation, naturally, we returned to our country triumphantly.

It looks like the Demon King is born very often, and the peace that we made……looking from the long history, it is really only a brief period of relaxation though……well, enough of that.

We defeated the Demon King.

Peace had returned.

And, a party was organized when we returned to our country, and we can eat good food and good liquor. I was able to make a little bossy face to everyone, and everyone would cheer me with smiles.

It's a common epilogue of a hero tale……if there's that lifestyle, it was enough for me.

……un, it was supposed to be like that.

The venue of the triumphal party, was in the wide inner garden of the

King's castle.

Ranks would be put aside today, and free liquor and food were given to commoners and peasants.

Without distinction of high and low, without discrimination, all of the country's citizen were allowed to enter the victory party.

In the end, all I did was to drink and get noisy, and after one to two hours after the party started, I was already groggy.

I heard this later on, but it looks like I fainted there while vomiting.

It was after midnight when I woke up.

Everyone, I think that they really cut their loose.

After all, there're drunks that were collapsed here and there with vomit in them, well that's really a horrible situation.

I stood up, and while holding my light head, even so, I laughed.

——it's peaceful, I thought.

Released from the fear from the monsters, and had this commotion as a recoil.

It isn't bad, un, this situation……isn't bad at all.

And even so, it's a terrible headache. I could only think that I drank too much.

「I should just feel the night breeze from somewhere high huh」

I spoke that to myself, and went towards the entrance that connects the inner garden to the castle with drunk steps.

I entered the castle.

I went up from the first floor to the fourth floor, continued to walk a little more, and reached the terrace.

The cold breeze tickled my cheeks, and it really feels good with a feverish body

I placed both of my hands to the handrails, and observed the town that spread beneath, and the distant mountain range.

This scenery, no, at a more distant place……thinking that we had protected all of this world, I felt very emotional.

「Un, it isn't bad……it isn't……really bad at all」

And when I was getting emotional like that, I suddenly heard a voice from my right side.

Even though I'm drunk……it's not normal for me to not be able to feel its presence until I was called.

But, looking at the appearance where I glared at, I made a wry smile.

「That's bad, Narwick. Who'd hide their presence in a place like this」

A silver-haired young man was there.

His pale face that is illuminated by the moonlit night——it's very common, but it can be only called a beautiful androgynous thing.

「Hey, Henry?」

The key player for the Demon King subjugation——Narwick the Brave. (TL: Yuusha Narwick).

I can't see any relaxation to the star of the party's expression.

"If I'm correct, today's the victory party right……", I even doubted that.

Not only that, feeling the tightened atmosphere, I answered while overwhelmed.

「What happened……Narwick?」

「Do you know about the Interstice Labyrinth?」

「I had heard of it. From everywhere at all times, whatever hero it is, it's the labyrinth that no one had returned from……well, it's something like a horror story right?」

「……hey, Henry, what are you planning to do from now on?」

「n? Let me think……there's already invitations to become sword technique instructor and military advisor coming from many countries. Well, that's also good, but it might be also good to make a dojo in the holy capital using this time's reward, and make my own sword school」

「Hey, are you content with that?」

Narwick said as if he was really uninterested tone while looking far away.

It's like the expression of a child looking at the toy that he had played too much with.

「What do you mean by that……? The world's already at peace, and……」

Together with a sigh, Narwick shrugged his shoulders.

「We are the strongest in this world. There is no longer anyone who can stand against us with individual strength. If it's a small country, even if we picked a fight with our party head-on……we might even win」

「……?」

「Aloof. That's what we are. It's too late, to return to the normal people, what will you do with that society? Whatever we do, it would only be a way of killing time until we die」

「……?」

「We……no, a person who could understand me, is most probably…… someone, or some kind of monster, that has even, or more strength than me」

「Nar……wi……ck……?」

I can't understand what he's saying at all. But, more than that, Narwick

seems, to get strange from how he looks.

His eyes were bloodshot, and he's spattering his saliva from his mouth.

I knew in an instant's glance, that it was not from being drunk from alcohol.

「Hey, Henry? Can you listen to my selfishness?」

「Selfishness?」

There was insanity dwelling in his bloodshot violet eyes.

——he isn't normal.

It wouldn't be good dealing with him right now. The sixth sense that I gained from placing myself on the battlefield was ringing its loudest alarm inside my head.

I want to leave this place right away, I thought of that, but my feet wouldn't listen for some reason.

Within the situation that is near paralysation, Narwick continued his words.

「Cecilia and Gato have already agreed. You're the only one left.....can you enter the Interstice Labyrinth with me」

Silence for a while.

And——my mouth opened.

「Ahh, gladly」

The completely opposite words that my brain had come up to. I had replied that for some reason.

「But, you, why so sudden? We had just defeated the Demon King you know?」

「I had heard it」

「You heard……?」

「The calling voice……from the rising dragon dwelling in the deep floors」

「……?」

After that, I can't remember it properly.

As if I had walked inside a pinkish fog, as if I was not myself, a light feeling.

And, it's decided that I would go with him to the labyrinth.

†

Hyaha～!

It's been a while huh! It's me! It's Ossan!

Well～, but, how can I say this, this……"Hyaha～" tension, I think it's weird recently.

After all, my real age is 35 years old you know?

I'm starting to think that the tension of a mohican that's randomly shooting using a flamethrower while shouting "Filth will be cleansed!!" is starting to be bad right.

From what I heard from the rumors, my classmates in high school had married or even had a child, and there's also ones that were going to be managers……

Compared to that, I'm an S-Rank adventurer in a different world, what the heck am I doing……

――"no, isn't an S-Rank adventurer more amazing than subsection chief or section chief?!", I don't need you to point that out.

How can I say this, it isn't like that you know.

Can you imagine this?

In the stand bar selling pig innards in the underpass of Shinbashi……with a cup of alcohol in my hand, a subordinate and I, was drinking in the third follow up party of the year-end party.

My subordinate is already drunk as fuck. But, I'm a manager so I'm not drunk that much.

And then, I treated him all the bill, took a taxi, and give the driver-chan a ten thousand yen bill.

I told the driver-chan to go until our company's dorm, and on the other hand, I'll return to my own house with 30 years of loan using the last train And then, my waifu will prepare me bath and a simple meal――

「Didn't I tell you to mail give me a text if you're going to be late that much……」

「I'm sorry every time. Thank you. I love you」

My waifu's cheeks would blush with those words――

「……you idiot」

Or something like that, and, I'll be going to the kid's room.

In the bunk bed, there's my three-year-old son and six-year-old daughter.

I kissed both of them with my lips with alcohol smell, entered the bath, wake up six thirty in the morning in the next day, and leave the house with my lunch box.

U～n……

How can I say this, components like that overwhelmingly lacks in this different world. That's what I'm asking for not something like an S-Rank adventurer alright? Understand?

†

Lake side in the afternoon.

The lake's size is about a fifty-meter square. Rather than a lake, it has an impression as a pond.

The forest of chestnut trees spread across the opposite shore, and a beach behind Junpei. That was the safety area.

While sitting on the ground, Junpei who had read the Ossan's not up until that, let out a light sigh.

「First……I can't imagine a pig innards store in Shinbashi. I'd never gone there」

It's true that it's too reckless telling a high school student to imagine a stand bar selling pig innards.

——in the first place, Ossan. What are you planning to do if the ones that reached this floor and read your letter, is someone from this different world, or even though reincarnated from Earth, they're from America?

While having a headache to the Ossan that was once a neet, Junpei read the next sentences.

†

But, this labyrinth, I wonder until where it continues.

And, I had thought about something.

We are thinking that the clearance of the labyrinth, is equal to being able to get out in the end……but is that really true?

I know you know this, but my special skill is【Past Peek】.

With that skill, I have seen various kinds of deaths of adventurers, and the conversations that were done there, I could read it using【Lip Reading】, but……this labyrinth really is suspicious.

Recently, I had noticed that there're three patterns for the guys that are entering this labyrinth.

First is skill test for S-Rank adventurers including me. Well, those guys

are mostly selected coming to this floor.

And next is guys that were sent as a sacrifice by their neighbors..... placing those guys who had just accidentally entered here in that group, well, anyways, those guys are annihilated in the first floor.

.....And, the last group.

It's not like I've seen everything with【Past Peek】. It means that I'm just able to see things that happened there in the past randomly. And there's also limits on use.

That's why the lower the floor, it's 99% that what I would see are massacres.

Even so, I was still luckily to see the 1% success that made me able to reach up until here, but.....after coming here, the situation got different.

Although I was only able to see annihilation videos up until now, but recently, videos, where monsters were being massacred instead, are being played often.

That's not the level of something like S-Rank adventurers, behind its overwhelming battle strength, as if they had known the weaknesses and how to kill those monsters from the start, they had killed the monsters.

Within them, there's even someone who was repeatedly the floors of this labyrinth that shouldn't be able to turn back, it looks like something that ridiculous exists. (Well, it seems like its an irregular though).

【Past Peek】is a special skill coming from the Clairvoyance skill tree, so of course, I can only look with it. And there comes【Lip Reading】.

Even though it's called【Lip Reading】, well, I'm a treasure hunter and it's not like I'm an assassin or spy so you can guess its accuracy.

And, after gathering information, it looks like the third group that is clearing this labyrinth are aiming for something.

First is to contact something that dwells in the depths.

And the other one is to pass through the depths, and in the deepest part——after clearing the labyrinth, they want something unimaginable that is further that.

Their reason for going deep is not to escape.

Knowing all the difficulty, they're going to this labyrinth in their own will to get that "something".

……Well, that's something that really doesn't matter……and, it's about this floor.

For the meantime, don't get near that lake or pond. This floor would be decent if you just don't go near the forest or the pond.

The pond, well……there's a terrible aquatic being in there. It's the giant squid monster called Kraken. It's a very dangerous thing, but it's nothing if you don't touch it. However, you can think that you're out if you got soaked up to your waist.

Move to the waters very very carefully, would be safe.

And, about the forest……for the meantime, absolutely don't enter it okay? I think that the guys that have【Appraisal Eyes】would probably no how dangerous that forest is.

Of course, I won't get near that too.

The worst cancer in this floor, it isn't the pond but the forest you know……

It's really terrible. After all, the whole forest is——

†

And there, Junpei left that note there and stood up.

Looking behind, the slimes that have evolved by making them adapt to the desert environment earlier was lined up.

When he raised his arm a little, the slime entered his item box with very

organized movements.

「Well, it's really terrible huh……even not minding the Phantom Forest」

While going around the pond, Junpei walked towards the forest across the shore.

「If you don't have【Appraisal Eyes】, you wouldn't know that this forest is ■■, and you're going to be forced to work after being trapped inside right? Really……it's really a hopeless thing」

And he advanced to the forest without hesitation.

The dark dim forest was enveloped by a cold atmosphere.

After walking for a while, the surroundings were wrapped by a dense mist.

「This is……the Phantom Forest huh. I can't even see a few meters ahead」

Even his feet on the ground were blurry.

And, at the same time when the mist had enveloped——his face crinkled with the dense smell of the chestnut flowers.

It is often said that the smell of the chestnut flowers during the rainy season as the smell of a male's semen, but it was really that smell.

In the situation where your sight isn't functioning, it would be a very difficult if he was attacked by monsters.

However, Junpei, he didn't care about the possibility that there would be monsters existing and advanced straight forward.

And then, after walking for a hundred meters, the mist had suddenly cleared.

A trail in front of him, and ahead of that in a small opened space, he could see a log house and a field.

「There was really someone……!」

He approached the log house, and when he was only about ten meters away, he called out with a loud voice.

「O～i! Is anybody here～?」

And then, *Gii*, the log house's door opened, and a man who had a few white hairs that seemed to be in his forties peeked out dubiously.

「Well isn't this unusual……」

The man who saw Junpei thought about something, and made a wry smile while brushing

his beard.

「Welcome, to the Phantom Forest……is it better that I'd say that?」

「……」

To Junpei's silence, the man once again made a wry smile.

「……well, enter inside. I'll let you drink a herb tea at least」

While being in his full caution, Junpei entered inside the log house. And while being recommended by the man, he took a seat in a rough chair made out of a cut out log.

And finally, the man brought out a herb tea that has a kind smell.

「It's red rose. It has an effect of calming down the mind. I can see it at a glance you know? You……you've had it bad right? Rest first」

After Junpei activated【Appraisal Eyes】and confirmed if there's no poison or the kind, he

honestly bowed his head and said his gratitude.

「……thank you」

「Ah, you can eat the snacks alright. So……in exchange for that, I don't need to say this, but……uh, I've been living by myself for a long time you know?」

「……?」

「For a while——can you listen to my story?」

▼ ▼ ▼

My name is Sword Saint Henry. It looks like, I was caught up in some kind of a terrible thing.

I'm on a floor in the Interstice Labyrinth.

And……ahh……in this floor, it is filled with the sweet smoke coming out from the burnt Mandragora.

Mandragora.

It's the highest level of materials that are usually used by alchemists, it's a very famous monster that is gathered by adventurers for some change.

It's a carrot-like plant that has a root shaped like a human, and it's also a famous story that it would let out a scream when they are picked up. And, it is also very famous, that those animals that hear its scream would die.

As an old way of picking it up, tie a string to a dog's head, and wrap the other part of the string to the Mandragora's root.

And when a human calls out the dog from far away, the Mandragora is pulled out, and it would be gathered in exchange for the dog's death.

It's an easy way to earn small money for rookie adventurers, so there's plenty of Mandragora that is circulating.

Actually, I also had gathered them.

And, their amount of circulation, it clearly, exceeds the amount needed for the research materials for alchemy……and it's circulating in the market, you know.

No, it might be not that correct to say that it's circulating in the market huh.

Specifically, they are being traded on the black market for a high price.

——Class 1 Hallucinogenic Narcotic Drug : Mandragora

A very popular way of using it for beginners is to boil it and making the crystallized components into powder, and sniff it through your nose.

It is said that regulars use intravenous injection to put it inside their body, but if you reach that point, you basically are out already. You can never return to normal life.

Other than that, there's also the way of smoking the dried leaves as a cigarette.

Its effects are, you will feel an intense pleasure for a few hours, saying it as a man,

thousands of times the pleasure of ejaculating semen, and you will feel euphoria.

In recent years, from the effects of Demons appearing, there's an occurrence of countries itself would ruin even though there are no wars, so the Holy Church had strictly prohibited its use other than for research.

But, that is only what is told in the surface, but the reality's different.

That's why, there's no end for the gathering request for research in alchemy to the adventurers guild.

——and, well, the smoke that terrible plant is filling up the air, on top of that……

「Higi! Gii! Gii!!」

A harsh coquettish voice was echoing in the surrounding from earlier.

According to Narwick, next to this would be the floor where the Kraken dominates, and it's a floor made by the guy currently clearing the labyrinth

in the deep floors.

He said, it's the facility used to send homunculi as meat bags of experience points to the front lines.

There's the smell of Mandragora, but it looks like I really won't get a liking to the smell of high purified distilled liquor that envelopes this floor.

This facility is composed of corridors and wall made up of ash-colored materials and with windows that I have never seen before, and partitioned with perfectly straight lines and right angles.

The windows had integrated with the walls with no nails or seams, and I really don't know how it's placed there.

「But, what is it really, Narwick, there's homunculi that are lined up across the window though……」

Embracing in her waist a girl who is in her early teens that he got from the cannibal village, said Sage Gato who had a white-haired head while poking him from behind.

Ahh, now that I think of it, Jii-san is currently on a trip with the Mandragora. That's why even when Narwick explained about this floor too, he probably didn't understand at all.

「I won't explain……the……same……thing……twice」

Inhaling a breath from his cigarette, Narwick exhaled a violet smoke while turning his eyes white.

He also started drooling, even if he's handsome if he's like that, there's nothing that can be done.

Sage Gato's waist had started to have strength in its stroke. It looks like he's near ejaculation.

He's so, even though he's near seventy.

「Higii! Gii! Gii!」

The girl's voice that can be taken as a coquettish voice or a scream echoed through the corridor.

On the other hand, Narwick, he sat while placing his back to the wall without looking at that scene.

The red win and deer's dried meat that was inside his stomach was greatly scattered in the ash colored floor.

It looks like the alcohol components and the Mandragora components had repulsed and entered somewhere bad.

And with that posture, he started to whisper something close to a scream as if nothing happened.

「Higii! Gii! Gii!!」

As the Sage's waist move faster, the girl's anguish voice gets stronger.

And finally, Gato asked Narwick while placing his hands on the girl's neck.

「Hey, is it……alright?」

Did Narwick entered a completely bad trip, he was crouching and continuing to vomit while trembling in an abnormal pace.

When I looked at him, he fainted while shedding his tears.

Of course, there's no reply from Gato.

「Well then, is it alright?」

Gato who didn't receive a proper reply, got convinced by himself and puts strength to his hands placed in the cannibal girl's neck.

「Higii! Gii! Gii! Gii!……Gya!?」

Even though he's a magician class, it's strangling from Gato who had subjugated the Demon King.

There was no way for a normal human to endure that, the girl's face colors immediately turned to blue, and changed to violet.

「Gii!……Kuha!……Ku!……a……」

To the girl's gradually weakening voice, Gato's waist strokes got stronger.

「Uu……it tigh……tens……」

The girl's face congests and swelled, and already didn't have the same shape.

And, he thrust his waist greatly as if to finish.

「Fuu……」

Gato who had scattered white fluids inside the girl all that he want, nodded very satisfied.

And *Dosari*, the cannibal girl who had turned into a corpse collapsed in her place.

「Not minding Narwick……you had smoked too much you know」

Gato looked at the girl magician that was smoking too much by the wall since earlier——he looked at Cecilia, and told her with a sigh.

「Kusukusu……ufufu……kusukusu……un, un, that's right huh. I can also hear it. Gaia's

voice, the universe's truth——ahh, the light overflows——」

Blond long her in her early thirties——Great Magician Cecilia is also, had become greatly addicted to the Mandragora Narwick taught her since entering this labyrinth.

Rather than strangling to death the girl he caught, Cecilia who is only escaping from reality without giving trouble to anyone else, is a little bit better……I think.

Anyways, I had lost all hope looking around.

Brave who's in the middle of a bad trip full of vomit.

Girl Great Magician who's talking in delirium in ecstasy.

Hustle Jii-san who's in his sixties.

Everyone other than me is addicted to Mandragora……what a ridiculous Brave Party this is.

On top of that, in this chaotic condition, we have to clear the labyrinth with a ridiculous

difficulty.

I was attacked by the feeling of throwing everything away, and got on my wit's end.

Consecutive fights after consecutive fights, losing all hope after losing all hope. In reality, There's also monsters that made me think that Demon King was a cute one……no, there's almost only those kinds of monsters.

And we've come here being able to defeat them somehow……hey, a-re? Monsters stronger than Demon King……how did we defeat it again?

Since entering this labyrinth, I feel like there's a blur in my consciousness, and my memories aren't clear.

Sage Gato who should've continued a lifestyle with the principle of abstinence and closing himself in the mountains eating haze, even if there's the effect of Mandragora, I can't remember how he became like this.

When I was thinking of that, Narwick who should've been in the middle of a bad trip was standing on my side.

「……isn't it fine not caring about the details? Without holding back, how about one?」

What he reaches out to me is a Mandragora cigarette. I shook my head sidewards.

「Unaffected and sincere, and fearless. Kind to everyone without discrimination, and strict to one's self……why did someone like you is addicted to drugs…….on top of that, raping children together with Gato……」

I know, I remembered.

In the first place, this Mandragora, it's something that we got from Narwick after fighting the boss of the first floor, the No Life King. Taking a glance at the No Life King, with Narwick's suggestion, we were able to get through that floor. At that time, Narwick gave that to us, who had felt fear to the abnormal battle strength of the monsters, saying that it's a drug that makes one's mind calm.

「Ahh, it's true that I changed. After all, I'm being called」

「Being called?」

*Nikkori*, he made a smile as if it was an innocent boy.

「The promised holy land. The depths of the labyrinth——the abyss's……I had received the invitation to the area that is even equal to God」

「……?」

Narwick who looked at me who's making a dubious face very troublesomely, took the Mandragora in his hand to his mouth, and light it on fire.

And he took a puff, and he reached out the remaining to my mouth.

「Don't might the details, right? Henry?」

I can't remember clearly after that, but when I noticed it, we were started walking to the next floor.

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▼ ▼ ▼

When Henry's story had a pause, Junpei opened his mouth.

「That was a very intense story, but……in short, it's the pattern where the Brave Party who defeated the Demon King challenged this labyrinth head on huh……really, my condolences」

Henry laughed wryly weakly.

「Haha, that's really true」

「It seemed like that Brave-sama was a faker, but……so, what happened to that Brave and the remaining members? Were they annihilated against the Kraken here?」

Henry shook his head sidewards.

「No, they passed by the Kraken. Four of the two advanced to the next floor. The Brave and Sage」

「What about the remaining two……? Was it you and the girl magician?」

「We decided to remain on this floor」

「Remain……what do you mean?」

Henry said uncomfortably.

「We had……a child」

「Haa? Within the labyrinth?」

「U～n, how can I say this……Narwick the Brave, Sage Gato, Great Magician Cecilia, and the Sword Saint……me. That, was the members for the Demon King subjugation, and was also the members that challenged this labyrinth. And……Cecilia, the Great Magician. She's a great beauty that has the same red hair as me. Well, she's my childhood friend though……」

Not knowing how to react, Junpei assented vaguely.

「She was a genius. When she was around ten, she graduated in the royal capital's magic university, but……the surroundings got jealous of her tremendous talents. That's right, she was a genius that's why she was solitude」

「Well, it's a common story……she's someone who would go subjugating the Demon King, that's probably a very smart genius」

"Ahh", Henry nodded.

「That's why, I honed my sword」

「……the reason for that?」

「In her surroundings, if someone who can stand in the same place as her was there, if I would at least hone one skill, and although it's a different field, I tried to be someone who can stand beside her……. unlike her, I didn't have talents that can be called genius, well, I had a hard time. But my efforts fruited, and when I noticed it I'm a member of the Brave Party. And that's why, well, how can I say this……in the middle of our journey, we became lovers. After defeating the Demon King, we were planning to get married」

「And why did that became clearing the labyrinth?」

「That's why I told you……I don't know」

"Anyways", Henry hit his palm.

「Cecilia was pregnant. I noticed in the middle of the labyrinth capture though……no, it might be more specific to say I remembered. We were planning to make a kid in the first place, and that we'd get married after the Demon King subjugation……」

「I see……huh. Really, that Brave one was really a rascal huh」

「——well, with this and that, Cecilia and I gave up clearing this labyrinth. This floor has abundant greens and there're also animals. That's why I thought that we can live here……there's also the precedent of the cannibal village too」

「But, I'm sorry for saying this, but in clearing the labyrinth……battle strength is valuable right? Even if you say you'd stay, I don't think that that would get through」

「Ahh, we received a huge objection. But, when we told them about the

child, Narwick's face colors clearly changed——even in his head, there's probably a fragment of conscience remaining. As a result——we were forgiven to remain on this floor. And, well, that's the reason why I'm living in this floor」

「But, well, how can I say this……you're really unlucky huh」

After thinking for a bit, Henry made a wry smile.

「I mean, this story is only unlucky, that's your comment……it's quite a terrible story you know?」

After thinking for a bit, Junpei also made a wry smile after all.

「If it's a contest of bragging misfortune, I don't think I'd lose」

Did he felt the darkness dwelling deep in his eyes, Henry once again made a wry smile.

「Both of us, we aren't lucky huh」

"And so……", Junpei said while looking around the room.

「I can only see this log house as for someone living alone though?」

It doesn't seem it expects visitors in the first place. There's a bed in the end of the room, but that's also for one.

There's also only one chair in the table, and Henry is drinking the herb tea while standing.

「Ahh, I'm living here alone」

「Uh, in what you said earlier……」

「She got crazy and died」

「Died, you say……?」

And there, Henry shook his head sidewards and spat out.

「Thinking about it now, it was all strange from the start. First, this forest itself is covered by mist. I noticed it later, but when you're wrapped in the mist, you absolutely cannot get out. Your sense of direction would go nuts, and when you notice it, you're turning around in the same place, it's "that" pattern in the fairy tales」

「……it seems like that. And……?」

「Cecilia and I who accidentally entered the forest, we made a hovel in this place since we couldn't help it, and started to live here……」

「……」

「The babies that were born were sextuplets boys. It's a sextuplets, a sextuplets. And……on top of that, the child's growth were abnormally fast」

「Abnormal fast growth……what happened specifically/」

「They were very cute when they were born. They had silver hair and round eyes……and, that, their appearance changed to about 20 years old after a year. And they can't understand human language. Probably, they were affected by the evil of the labyrinth, and became a living being different from a human. Imagine that. An appearance of a well-grown young man was leaking their body excretions and says "AuAu"? They were crawling like a baby you know? Haha, it's not that much. What awaited us after ending the nightmare of the labyrinth exploration was, a new nightmare」

Junpei made an expression as if he bit a bitter bug.

「Well, that's……harsh」

「And, after they were two, they were male in their prime, and while we were looking at them become an old man after they were three——Cecilia's personality changed」

「Old man……I mean, changed her personality you say, what happened?」

「First, she started to take Mandragora again」

「Madra……gora……you mean……that……」

「Ahh, it's the demonic drug that the Brave gave. But, when looking at our sons' speed of growth……when looking at that disastrous scene, I couldn't blame Cecilia. But, I thought at least, I will support her」

「……」

「Immediately when she started to take Mandragora again. The way she took care of our sons……no, if you'd just say on how it looked, it was completely nursing. That gradually became crude. The disposal of their wastes, their food, and……all of the others. In the end, she even started to punish them excessively. It started with slapping first, next, it changed to hitting. And when she saw that the blood that came out of our sons' nose changed to blue——Cecilia got broken」

「Their blood……is blue……」

"Ahh", Henry nodded, and spoke elatedly.

「The dinner that day was really extravagant. 『They say that there's a custom of eating them raw in an island country to the East you know』, that was Cecilia said. I lost my words. The table was served with Sashimi for six after all」

「Sashimi?」

「Ahh. Human sashimi. The old men that were butchered were lined up on top of the table. Sashimi……or maybe was it called Ikizukuri? The nerves of the people who had that kind of cooking, I really couldn't understand it at that point. It's only the difference of whether it is fish or human……but you're doing the same thing in the end right? That was, a scene that made a lot of things come up out from the bottom of my stomach you know?」

「……」

「Before the sashimi, Cecilia whispered something as a delirium, and started to laugh. That was, she really was laughing with a great expression. She, Cecilia was probably completely broken……and she whispered one thing, 『Henry, sorry』……」

And there, Henry looked up the ceiling, and continued.

「She was a great magician before after all. She didn't even need to make the hovel on fire. On top of that, what she used was a forbidden technique. Incinerate one's soul and envelope everything with the hell's blaze——after that, everything, including yourself, will disappear without leaving behind dust, it was that kind of magic」

「……」

「……our house blazing behind me, I ran away from that place. I ran, trying to get out of the forest. But, even if I run and run, I was not able to run away from this forest after all……that's why I made the house again. I also made a field while I'm at it」

Henry shrugged his shoulder and made a wry smile.

Silence filled the small room.

After thinking for a while, Junpei threw out words to Henry.

「Really……you're unlucky」

While making a smile, Henry continued.

「Hearing up to this, that's still your reaction, unlucky……」

「Ahh, right now, in a contest of misfortune, I don't think I'd lose against you」

Making a sullen face, Henry let out.

「What kind of like have you walked through……」

"Even so……", after taking a breath, Henry let out a very deep sigh.

「I understand that Cecilia got broken and became like that. But, we had raised them for three years you know? The time when the violence started until they were killed……it was really fast. For me……I don't understand why Cecilia suddenly did a violent move like that…」

「Hey, Henry-san? Is the thing you say the Mandragora, is it that cigarette placed there?」

Junpei asked while pointing at the cigarette that was placed in the corner of the table.

「Ahh, I don't know when it would be useful so I left it. This isn't something I need to say, but I didn't use that alright?」

「【Appraisal Eyes】is really convenient huh. I got……most of what had happened」

「……?」

「Mandragora is……well, it is a proper material for magic and alchemy. Of course, there're many effects other than a narcotic. For example, Mandragora itself shows hallucinations, but as its side-effect, it has the effects of erasing the hallucinations other than the hallucinations that the Mandragora made. Most probably, to Cecilia-san who started to take Mandragora again, your sons……they probably saw them as something different」

「……what, are you saying?」

「Well, Cecilia-san also probably was bugged with the drug……but in reality, Sashimi was a really funny story. It was really fitting」

「……really, what are you saying?」

「The reason that she tried to suicide, I think that it wasn't because of the abnormal growth of your sons. No, that might be also a reason……but I think, the real purpose was something different」

And there, Henry had veins popping in his temples.

「What the hell are you saying since earlier……on top of that, as if you know――」

Getting his collar grabbed, Junpei who was hanged up had choked.

Unless it was a speed competition, he can't resist an S-Rank adventurer with strength competition.

If Henry wanted to do it, he could've broken Junpei's neck right now.

But, Junpei made a fearless smile.

「As if I know……the hell. In fact……I really know it. Also, it hurts……so let me go……」

「……?」

Junpei who got released prompted Henry to go outside.

Henry who seemed to not understand why, followed him.

When the door was opened, a suffocation smell of the chestnut flowers enveloped them.

And, Junpei spat out as if to curse.

「Henry-san……you……have you seen the Kraken's pond?」

「If I'm correct……it was only about a fifty-meter square right? Its depth was more than ten meters……」

「And, Kraken, it's a giant squid whose body is at least more than 20 meters long right?」

「Well, it's called Kraken, it should be at least that long」

And there, Junpei lightly spread out both of his arms, and said as if to get disgusted.

「That size of a pond, how do you think would a Kraken get nutrients? It isn't the ocean you know? It would devour all food in an instant right?」

"Let me think", Henry tilted his head.

「Being told by that, that's true」

And, Junpei pointed at the surrounding trees.

「To live on this floor, the Kraken had a special evolution. Do you know about photosynthesis?」

「Kougou……sei?」

「Well, in the level of this world's civilization, and a muscle-brain on top of that……there's no way that you'd know huh……. Anyways, the Kraken chose chlorophyll to gain nutrients. And for that it was——a special organ」

「Oi oi, wait……I can't understand it you know?」

To Henry's question, "It just means……", after a pause, Junpei answered his question.

「This forest itself——it's the Kraken」

With a dumbfounded face, Henry asked Junpei.

「Haa? It's a Kraken you know? It's a monster that lives in the water right?」

「In reality, an appraisal result like that is coming out so it can't be helped. The plants in this forest are already infested by the Kraken」

「……haa?」

He stopped Henry who was about to say something with his hand.

「……that's right, the roots of the plants should be connected with the Kraken's tentacles underground. Its main body is taking its nutrients by that……was the Kraken living in this labyrinth for a long time had a special evolution like that, or was it a living thing like that from the start, I don't know. Nonetheless, while photosynthesizing as a plant, the main body of the animal side of the Kraken……it should be living in the water」

Henry who lost his words with that, asked Junpei again.

「Infest……no, special organ?」

「Most probably, the child that was born between Henry-san and Cecilia-san……they're your children, but they aren't your children. I told you right? This whole forest is the Kraken. And the dense smell that the chestnut trees releases……and that with its meaning itself, you can take it as "that"」

「……”that”, you say?」

「Well, it’s the smell of the chemical substance called spermine……and that is, how can I say this huh. It means, that this whole area is always filled with the Kraken’s sperm fluttering. And, when there was a child in the womb, or maybe at the timing when plants were making seeds, the special organ had its effect. It means——it infests the animal, or the animal’s baby」

「Our sons……were?」

「Henry-san, you said that your children were affected by the labyrinth’s evil and changed like that……but there was also reproduction in the cannibal village. The people there, they had taken the abnormal choice of cannibalism because they were forced to, but they were normal other than that. At least, I didn’t see them as if they were affected by the evil you know? Was that floor special, or is it only this floor’s special cause……well, at the least, I’ll believe the appraisal results of my own skill」

「That means……Cecilia……she……?」

「They were children that she gave birth with pain after all. Her intuition was probably sharper than men. Isn’t that why, once again, she started to take Mandragora? The magic drug that has the effects to erase the hallucination the Kraken give……. And she confirmed the truth and got broken. As a result, she did that misconduct. Even so, they were still her children although it was only half. She probably took suicide because she couldn’t bear it anymore」

「You mean, our children, their abnormal growth, was it……a hallucination?」

「No, I don’t know about that……I don’t know, but their life forces were absorbed the damn squid at once that’s why they aged. But, even so, the true appearance of the things that you saw as your child, it should’ve been a completely different monster……」

Silence.

A very, very long silence.

And finally, Henry, he threw out his last question to Junpei.

「In the first place……why, is this functioning as a phantom forest?」

「Can I take that as what's the merit the Kraken would have in trapping living things in this forest right? One is, animals……collecting their wastes……even their corpses can be nutrients. And when a human got lost in here, unable to run away, and started to live here, there would be harmony inevitably and they would take care of it by their own. On top of that, if it was, fortunately, able to infest the babies of humans or animals, most probably, it has a higher efficiency to collect nutrients and life forces. When your children were forcefully grown in a high speed, and at the same time when they had reached their adult stage, their energy was absorbed and became an old man……well, I think, that they were used as live stocks efficiently」

「I see……huh」

"And with that", Junpei clapped his hands.

「Leaving the gloomy conversation here, it's about time……let's go」

「……to where?」

「The root cause of this phantom forest——to the Kraken's place」

「……?」

To Henry's dubious look, *Kokuri*, Junpei nodded.

「We're going to score a Namasu」

And there, was Henry finally able to understand the situation, no, it was because he understood that he made an expression that he couldn't understand.

「It's true, that to be able to get out of this ridiculous forests, there's only flying to the sky or kill it. But, I had seen that once before, but……it isn't something that a human can kill you know? I'm a man who was once called a Sword Saint. I know that you're also not normal, but——」

"Ahh", Junpei nodded.

「Even so, we're gonna score a Namazu」

And, he continued.

「Follow me. I need a hand. There's a chance of winning——that's the reason why I entered this forest」

**【Kraken】**

**Danger Specification ▼**
SS

**Characteristics ▼**
A race that is almost the strongest within the monsters that live in the ocean. It's girth is four meters, and if the length of its tentacles is added, it's a monster that is more than twenty meters.

It inhabits the deep sea that is far from the land, but rarely, there are ones who goes near the land with empty stomachs, pull in ships in the sea, and prey on its passengers. It is being told by the men of seas as synonymous to fear from everywhere at all times. Furthermore, it is almost invincible within waters, and there is no case of subjugation by humans when the Kraken is under water.

「Even so……you really think of ridiculous things」

In front of Henry and Junpei, is an artificial pond that has a two-meter radius. And water channels extend from there, and connects to the Kraken's pond.

The width of the water channel is about a meter, it's depth is ten meters, and it extends for a kilometer.

——Ten days.

That was, the number of days Junpei and Henry needed to spend to

prepare for this time's big catch.

Junpei by himself, who had placed most of his level up parameters to evasion and didn't have that much strength, it would've been impossible to make this huge of a construction.

Without needing to say, it is the Sword Saint Henry who had done most of the work using his sword as a hoe.

「If it can't be defeated by normal means, that only means……you only can do things that aren't normal」

The artificial pond that exists in front of Junpei who answered smiling, had a cylindrical image.

And in the middle of that cylinder, slimes were filled tightly.

「But……slime……huh. It's true that I have seen it before that they were being sold dried in the food market……」

Originally, most of the slime's volume, is made out of water.

The state of a normal slime, is a sphere that was about a meter in diameter. But the slimes in front of them right now, because of Junpei who was a Slime Tamer, they released all the moisture out of its body with all of their strength, and had a size of a volleyball.

And their numbers, they were more than thousands, so their specific numbers were unknown.

And within those, about ten percent——they entered the artificial pond that connects to the Kraken's pond, and absorbed the water as if they were getting stained.

「The pond that the Kraken lives……it's only a hole that's disconnected to a river. It's really doubtful how it appeared, but nothing will happen asking for logic in this labyrinth huh. You should just get convinced about it as it is, and use it as it is」

The slimes who were plump after absorbing the water came out of the water. Junpei looked around the giant slimes that were lying here and there

very satisfied.

「And……it's invincible within the water. If that is so……」

Next, Junpei looked at the slimes that had the size of a volleyball that was waiting their turn to absorb water. New slims jumping into the pond.

「Then, you should just dry the pond itself. I don't know if the water circulation is underground water or rain, but as long as it isn't connected to a river, the water capacity isn't that many. If that is so……with a lot of slimes, it can be adjusted as much as you want」

To not let the Kraken notice, very, very slowly, the reclamation work advanced.

As mentioned above, right now, Junpei was using ten percent of the slimes for the reclamation work.

Twenty-five thousand tons of water is needed to be drained in simple calculations, and the slimes that got plump once again, released water as much as possible……they were being reused like that. There's of course, a different reason that he was not using the remaining ninety percent of the slimes.

Within the narrow pond, the Kraken is always in a half hibernation state, and the artificial pond is also a kilometer away from there, so it would be hard for it to notice the work that was being done.

Even so……if there was a chance that the Kraken would notice and the water channel would be blocked, it would be out. Everything's going to be finished.

That is why there's a need to do the work very, very slowly, and carefully.

Spending whole four days, right now, the water level was only one-third of what it had, it fell by a total of three meters.

And, there, Junpei who was observing ahead of the channel clicked his tongue.

「Well, yeah……you'd notice that huh」

At the same time with Junpei's words, the sound of the ground shaking could be heard from far away.

And the water level of the artificial pond before Junpei had clearly gone down.

And immediately, Junpei ran towards the pond with a gale's speed.

「Follow me! Slimes!!」

Henry's rough voice could be heard behind Junpei.

「Oi, what the hell happened?!」

「It noticed……it destroyed the water channel in the middle! Even if the water here was absorbed, there's no meaning!」

"Let me think……", after thinking a while, Henry's face turned to blue.

「There's still around three meters remaining right? Well, that would really be hard to move in, and its battle strength probably decreased drastically, but……even so, isn't the Kraken still in good health?」

「That's right. Exactly. And I……expecting this situation――」

The forest opened, and the pond spread ahead.

And at the same time, Junpei immediately opened his item box.

「For this, I had remaining slimes!! Gooooooooo!!!」

That's right, that was the use of the remaining ninety percent of slimes. The slime that shrunk after losing its moisture, they rushed to the pond from the item box.

On one hand, the Kraken controlled its ten tentacles freely, and met the slimes.

It crushed them, or maybe strangled them to them, but they were too

many. It wasn't able to completely deal with all of them.

And while that was happening, the water level of the pond clearly fell with an abnormal pace compared to earlier.

That should be the case, after all, all of them was sent this time, on top of that, they were only focused in absorbing.

Nine times of earlier……maybe speeds more than that, the water level fell at once.

But even so, the slimes immediately got plump, and proportionally to that, the speed of the water level falling got dull.

And finally, when there were only about two meters remaining, the water level completely stopped decreasing.

「Oi oi, isn't that a failure after all!」

In a blink of an eye after Henry let out a voice of confusion, *Hyun*, a wind cutting sound.

One of the tentacles came out of the water, and was shot towards Sword Saint Henry.

At the nick of the time when he dodged the tentacle as if to dance, a slash with the Holy Sword that was covered with rust——the tentacle was wounded for around twenty centimeters.

When the Kraken was faintly stunned with that counterattack, he took a back step.

And with a voice that was close to a scream, Henry shouted towards Junpei.

「Oi, boy!! Let's retreat! The slimes wouldn't be able to absorb water more than this! The slimes would be annihilated without ten minutes!!」

Hearing that, "Yare yare", Junpei shrugged his shoulders.

「Henry-san……the main part is just beginning!」

And, he continued with a middle finger.

「Surround it! Slimes! Contain it!」

The slimes that easily exceed a thousand. On top of that, each of them that exceeds a

diameter of one meter piled up on top of each other and became a wall, and surrounded the Kraken that was twenty meters long.

In other words, is the embankment with the slime. That made the pond into a half.

Junpei who looked at that very satisfied, threw the item box itself into the embankment.

「——go!! This is the end!! You damn squid!!」

From inside the item box, slimes once again. However, it was the size of a human's fist.

It looks like a dried jellyfish, or maybe the thing called a dried Jew's ear.

「Oi, what is that……? Isn't that a dried food? It looks alive, but……is that……a slime?」

「It's……Sand Slime. The thing called slime is weak. And since it's weak, it can adapt to any kind of environment. That's……the species that I adapted to a desert environment」

「Desert's……slime?」

「It just means, it's the slime that can maintain water in its body even in dry desert lands. Even if it's called "desert", it's not like it's dry for the whole year. The dry season is only very long, and although rarely, it also rains. "That", so that it would be able to survive with rare rains, it had evolved」

「……meaning?」

「It's the species that can contain unbelievable amounts of water inside its

body, and can use it for long times. Its absorption rate is as you can see」

As if water had stained the desert……the slimes inside the bank that had surrounded the Kraken decreased the water level at frightening speeds.

In opposite of that, the capacity of the Sand Slime increased unbelievably.

In some individuals, it even grew to more than four meters of diameters.

When they noticed it, there was no more water inside the slime's embankment, and there were only juicy slimes and a giant squid.

That scene, was as if a lot of jellyfishes and a squid was pulled out with to the ground with a net.

Anyways, Junpei successfully stole the Kraken's inhabitation place.

「But, however, that's still alive right? The limited space that was embanked was only dried, and if that bank gets broken, wouldn't it start resurrecting immediately……」

As Henry had said, the Kraken was hugely thrashing around.

It was turning its tentacles with huge momentum, and it was clear that it was a matter of time before the wall was destroyed.

「What are you planning to do? I think that its battle strength drastically decreased, but it's still a Kraken, it's unknown if we can defeat it with a hundred percent with the two of us……」

「My bad, Henry-san, can you get away for a bit」

Junpei signed Henry to take a distance with his hand.

And after that, he took out a huge cloth that was like a bandage from his waist, and one more, this time, he took out a thin cloth. And narrowing his eyebrows to a wrinkle, Junpei took out Cerberus's Canine.-

——and, to the next scene, Henry lost his words.

Junpei placed the Cerberus's Canine to his own wrist, and cut out his veins at once.

He placed the bandage over his wound with expressionless, and stood there for a while with no words.

Junpei's face colors clearly worsened, it exceeded blue turning violet.

At the same time, the bandage was dyed with a red color. Probably losing too much blood, *Furari*, Junpei almost collapsed. But, he braced himself and stood his ground.

「——it would be ridiculous dying here with loss of blood! You're the one who'd fucking die! You damn squid!!!!」

With the words he squeezed out, Junpei threw the bandage with his own blood inside the slime embankment.

The evasion rate status, it also directly affects the attack's accuracy.

If that is so, his throwing precision right now should be making a major leaguer's face blue. If there was no disturbance——there's no way he'd miss the target.

Junpei fell to his knee, and wrapped the thin cloth that he had prepared for the start tightly and pressured his axillary artery below his armpit.

That is the treatment that is called the indirect pressure method, it is the same logic that the water coming from the water supply would stop if you step on the hose that extends from it.

When he had stopped the bleeding for around ninety percent, Junpei took out a sticky herb, and coated the part that was cut open and completely closed the wound.

And at the end, on top of that, he did a direct pressure method using a thin cloth.

As a first-aid, it was a work that can be said as perfect——but Junpei's sight blurred very fast.

It was no doubt that the loss of blood was the cause.

To Henry who was watching what was happening from a distance, Junpei asked while breathing with his shoulders.

「Henry-san……what happened……to the squid? My eyes……it's just a little bit……hard to look」

Confirming the squid's state from far away, Henry lost his words once again.

「You……what did you do? Something like this……isn't it…… impossible……」

In the place where Henry was looking at, the giant squid that was thrashing around——as if a cockroach that was sprayed with an insect killer, it was only able to wriggle its tentacles without strength.

No matter how you look at it, it was in the state……of dying.

「Oi……don't make me say it twice……what happened……to the squid?」

「……Ah……ahh……un, it's dying. I mean, aren't you also staggering」

*Gunyari*, Junpei collapsed to the ground.

Henry approached to look after him, but Junpei immediately stopped him.

「My blood is poisonous. It's better if you don't approach……even if it's the blood that splashed here, there's the possibility for it to make a human in a coma in an instant just by breathing the ones that evaporated……well, if it's an adventurer your level……there might be no need to worry that much……though」

「From the start……were you planning to use your blood as your trump card? Most probably……the reason that you took away the water from the Kraken, is because you didn't want the blood to dilute in the huge amount of water, it was only all for that right?」

After letting out a deep sigh, Junpei nodded.

「Unfortunately, my cards, it isn't enough to take monsters here as an opponent」

"I see", Henry who whispered that, made a wry smile after a pause.

「……this is how you fight……huh……it isn't normal」

「It's because it's not normal……that I was able to reach here」

"Well then", Junpei prompted Henry to look at the Kraken's direction with his jaw.

「It's that huge. I don't know until when it would be calming down with the paralysis. I can't move, so I want you to deal the last blow. Well……it's too bad that you'd take all the experience points though. Be careful, to not touch my blood……」

"Ahh", nodding, Henry drew his long sword from its sheath.

「Don't worry. If it's a monster that strong, its monster core should be able to be taken away. The experience points are yours」

「……core? What's that?」

「What the heck are you saying?」

「Answer the question……what the heck is that?」

Henry was dumbfounded in an instant, and finally, he started laughing out loud.

「Amazing……you really don't know huh? Isn't it the common sense for leveling, it's something that an adventurer should know——」

「……my debut fight is in this place's first floor. Before that, I had never done killing at al」

「Haa? Really, what the heck are you saying?」

Henry thought for the meaning of those words for a while, and lost his words once again.

「Are you……serious. What a……ridiculous boy you are, really」

While being completely appalled, he started to walk towards the pond.

The time when Henry returned with his whole body dyed by the blue blood of the Kraken, was ten minutes after that.

In his hand, a violet colored crystal, a huge amount of the material cards that was most probably the squid's meat, and Junpei's item box.

「This is……the core?」

Henry who passed Junpei the core, "You really don't know anything huh", made a wry smile.

「Ahh, it's the lump of life energy. The lowest level of monsters only have the size of a bean, but this, it is really huge as expected」

「And, how do you use it?」

「If you crush it with your hand……the life energy would flow into you. And……when it's left like this, the life energy would melt into the air after a while, and disappear without a trace. That's why you should use it quickly」

As he was told, Junpei crushed it with his hand, and his body was enveloped by a bluish white light. And passing through his veins, something warm flowed into his brain and heart.

"Un", after Junpei nodded, Henry opened his mouth.

「What are you planning to do from now on?」

「I'll go down. Deeper, to a darker place……and, what is Henry-san planning to do from now on?」

「——five years」

「Five years?」

"Ahh", Henry nodded.

「It's the time that I spent living here. Both of strength and intuition in battle had weakened……however」

「However?」

And just like that, Henry reached out his palm towards Junpei and smiled.

「Ohh, I should be careful not touching your blood. I am Sword Saint Henry. It's not to brag……but I am strong. I have no regrets remaining here, if that is so, I want to try to escape out of here——together with you」

But, Junpei didn't grip back the palm that was reached out to him, and shoot his head sidewards.

「Hey, Henry-san? While listening to your story, there was something that I was very curious about」

「……?」

「What is the color of Cecilia-san's hair?」

「It's the same red as me……」

「That's right, if I'm correct, you had said that Cecilia-san's hair color is red. And, Henry-san's hair color is also red. But, earlier, you said that the color of your sons' hair was

silver」

Not minding Henry who had shut up, Junpei showered him with words as if to pursue.

「Hey, Henry-san? In the end, the children's appearance that you had seen, they were the hallucination from the Kraken, so right now, their hair colors don't matter anymore……but, you saw it as silver hair with your eyes right? ……why is that? Why, did you not have doubt, that your children's hair was silver, coming from two red hairs?」

Henry answered with a sullen face.

「……ahh, of course, I doubted it. That was most probably Narwick's child. When we were exploring the labyrinth, it was a chaos state like that…… Cecilia who didn't know if it was dream or reality, and Narwick who was honest to his desire……or maybe, it might be a rape done forcefully, or it might be with permission」

Junpei's eyebrow flinched.

「……you knew that, and raised them?」

「In the first place, the time was very strange. She was pregnant when we start going down this labyrinth, it was more natural to think like that thinking of the time. My child probably had died before it was born. But, I thought that that was fine as it is. That's why it's alright with that」

「……you really, loved her huh」

「We were together since we were still a child after all. I don't know if it can be called as love……but, I couldn't leave her alone.」

And, Henry gripped his first very strongly.

「Well now, let's go. Right now, I don't know what happened to Narwick. But, if we go down, we should be able to meet him. I am……I will not be able to have rest if I won't hit him once」

And, he continued.

「——that is my reason for going down」

Junpei who heard that burst into a laugh.

「Really, you're off」

「……?」

「Henry-san. I was observing you for a long time. If, from now on, you and "that person" would get along from now on」

Henry asked with a dumbfounded expression.

「That person……?」

“Ahh”, Junpei nodded and answered.

「That’s why I went on my ways going here. If it’s only killing the Kraken, I don’t need to enter the phantom forest, and even if I need to fight with someone, Cecilia-san’s magic would be more useful with that as an opponent」

Still unable to understand the situation, Henry got petrified while reaching out his palm.

*Kusuri*, Junpei smiled, and finally gripping back his palm, he said.

「Your wife, she’s alive you know? In the hovel in the opposite shore, she’s living with a cute red haired girl」

「……oi?」

“I can’t believe it”, Henry opened his mouth.

As the mist had cleared, the dessert that spread in the opposite shore could be seen.

“I see”, as Junpei had said, a hovel could be seen near the opposite shore.

「In the middle of our conversation, towards me, for many times, you asked……why I said that my comment was you were unlucky right? Well, even if it’s me, I wasn’t able to hear the story calmly for the first time you know?」

「……meaning?」

「I had already heard the same story you know, from your wife. And then, if it’s with someone who had a place to return to, I had confidence that I would absolutely win with contests of misfortune」

「But, she should’ve died……」

「It was also probably your wife’s last resort. The way of getting out of the phantom forest is very simple. The first one is, defeating the Kraken.

And the another one is……being thrown out by the Kraken. To get out of the forest, Cecilia-san needed to make herself, someone who is unneeded or a human who's dangerous for the Kraken. Even acting as if……she got crazy」

「That's probably the way of going out……but why, would she leave me on by myself……?」

「She was pregnant you know. Genuinely, Henry-san's child. One that wasn't infested by the Kraken's sperm……it's without a doubt, your child. But if she was left in the forest just like that, the child in her womb would once again……going to be infected. That's why she ran away」

"But……", Henry shook his head sidewards.

「Why, did she, without consulting me……」

「One is, even she used all of her knowledge as a high-level magician, she wasn't able to think of a way to get out of the phantom forest with the two of you……. it's useless to consult……well, rather than that, the possibility that the Kraken would find out that she's pregnant would only increase. And the other one, she didn't know, if she had the qualification of living beside Henry-san……. alone for once, she probably wanted to think of all of it by herself」

Junpei continued furthermore.

「Well, about the sextuplets, it looks like it was true that she was pregnant with a good for nothing way. But she couldn't say that it was Narwick's child after all, on top of that, even for what reason it was, it's true that she started to use drugs again……. it seems like, she hated herself who was like that from the bottom of her heart」

To Henry who shut up, Junpei shrugged his shoulders.

「Those delicate things, I don't have a clue. But, she, on her own, wasn't she in her limits for many things? It was just because, you accepted Narwick's child without saying anything……. on top of that, they were infested by the Kraken right? For her to be cornered……well, it's not like I don't get it」

To Junpei's words, while closing his eyelids, Henry made a wry smile.

「Without consulting anything, worrying about it by herself, and deciding by herself……that's really like her……. ahh, despicably……it's really like Cecilia that I loved, a very self-centered action」

"Well so", Junpei continued.

「——all is for the child in her womb……it was really to protect Henry-san and Cecilia-san's real child……wouldn't you like to end it with that?」

There was no way for him to resist Junpei's words, Henry fell to the ground without strength.

Making Henry stand by lending him his shoulder, Junpei said ambiguously.

「Really……I'm also severely wounded you know? Don't make things too hard for me」

「Ahh, I'm sorry, but……but……」

Junpei looked at the material cards that Henry had, and mischievously smiled.

「For the meantime, it is. Henry-san? I have alcohol. It's something I got from the village along the way here……in the safety area, I was taking sips drinking it. I had nibbles, but they were only dried meat」

「n? What is it so suddenly?」

「Tonight would be a feast. And we should let Cecilia-san make something with all of her skill——」

Junpei made a grin, and continued.

「——it's a full course of squid alright」

To those words, Henry made a wry smile with a lot of meaning.

▼▼▼

In the middle floors of the Interstice Labyrinth.

In the huge stone structures surrounded by a jungle——on top of the stone paving that is reminiscent of the ancient ruins of Aztec in South America, a pair of a man and a woman is facing each other.

The silver haired man, he had a red colored armor and held a holy sword shining bluish white.

In front of him, a girl wearing a sailor uniform for summer that has a long black hair that extends to her waist. The girl who had very cold eyes, opened her mouth with a voice that had no emotions.

「——really……you're really the worst scumbag. And you're stupid too. You're out of the question」

「n? Scumbag you say? Even if I'm like this, I'm a hero that defeated the Demon King if I return to my country though」

With a vulgar smile, Narwick the Brave answered to the girl.

Beside them, the corpse of Sage Gato that the girl killed, and this floor's guardians that Narwick trampled——the corpses of Cerberus's horde was lying around.

「That old human that is lying there, as a souvenir to the deep floors…… you brought him as a meat bag of experience right?」

「Hou, you know my circumstance. Well, in the point where you are able to enter this floor, aren't you not normal too……」

「No, what I mean is that you're the worst scumbag, your lethal fault, is rather than that, it's that your head is too stupid I guess?」

To the girl's words, Narwick narrowed his eyebrows.

With a sigh, the girls started an explanation.

「That man's level is only about level 1000 right. The members in the deepest area, even the lowest is level 3000……what would something like that experience do. In reality, it's not like you were ordered to do that right?」

After a silence for a while, Narwick gripped his sword.

「What are saying, either ways, you're going to fight me right? It's alright, I'll be your opponent, you should take out your weapon」

The girl took a glance to the katana that was hung in her waist——raised the end of her

lips, and shook her head sidewards.

「I won't take out my weapon」

「……?」

Dark to the very end, with cold eyes she said while looking at Narwick.

「That isn't needed. My goodness……the deepest part——『Dragon Claw

Troupe』seems to be lacking members huh, to think that they'd really call a normal Brave to this labyrinth……honestly, I'm surprised」

Narwick made a dubious expression.

And it looks like he finally noticed that he was made fun of, his pale skin instantly turned red.

「It looks like, you're misunderstanding something. I am level 2500. I don't know what you're talking about, but I don't want to be compared to a little girl wandering around the middle floors!! And this is my……it is my best skill as the Brave!!」

When Narwick invoked, a silver colored aura enveloped his whole body.

「【The Brave's Holy Battle Aura】huh……. if I'm correct, it adjusts all the status by 375%……was it?」

Level 2500, and the effects of the skill in addition. And even understanding all of that, the girl answered with expressionless.

「Something similar……I can do the same」

At the same time she whispered, the girl's whole body was covered by a red aura. With that scene, Narwick's expression was dyed with surprise.

「That is Gato's unique skill……?」

Skill【Flame Dragon's Blessing】. Sage Gato whose specialty was explosion magic, it's a special skill that he gained with an individual contract with the Flame Dragon to heighten the strength of his flame type magic. It has an intense effect that doubles the strength of flame type magic.

"Un", Narwick nodded.

「You bastard also specializes on flames huh……but, to think that the Flame Dragon would open its heart to several contracts……」

「No, I don't remember doing such contract. The think that I did——is killing the Sage collapsed there, no, maybe……I just let him go from your curse」

「That's ridiculous! That skill, without contract, it absolutely……」

The girl said as if it was nothing.

「What, it's a simple story. I only——stole his skill. That is all」

In the next instant, when the flame aura that was enveloping the girl disappeared, when he noticed it, a shining card was in the girl's hand. And the girl threw that towards Narwick.

Looking at it,『Skill【Flame Dragon's Blessing】was written there』

「Unfortunately, I have limits on my skill slots. That's why——I'm able to throw away skills. Well, there's some people who are able to steal skills, but the ones who can throw away skills, there are only two in this world」

"Even so……", the girl continued without an accent.

「【The Brave's Holy Battle Aura】and【Flame Dragon's Blessing】……what a shitty skill……because the deep floor moved after a long time……and went on my way hurrying here happily——」

And there, for the first time, emotion in the girl's tone——it was mixed with anger.

「——what do you think? As for me, I can only say that I wasted my time going here. The time is limited……I don't have time playing around you know?」

In a blink of an eye, Narwick leaped to a horizontal direction.

He who had reached his top speed in an instant with only using his half body as a spring, slashes the holy sword without hesitation.

In the current situation, and the contents of what she told, he who was literally a seasoned Brave, was forced to take the choice of making a surprise attack.

——I did(killed) it!!

The sword reached her head.

But, the sword cuts the air with a cutting air sound, Narwick lost the appearance of the girl for an instant.

「I'm in a really bad mood. My goodness……losing time here」

In the place around 30 meters behind Narwick, she said that to herself.

「Oi……right now……what did you do? Why are……you there……? Tele……port?」

「Skill【Physics Calculation Manipulation】. Well, in other words, it's Shukuchi. Distance, speed, and time. That concept's coefficients……I only placed something a little there. Well, though, it's not like I can manipulate everything」

Without stopping to think about the meaning of those words, Narwick swung his sword.

Skill【Vacuum Fang】. It's an ability that makes long range attack by Kamaitachi using the sword.

「Sàn」(散)

With her whispering only that, the Kamaitachi dissipates.

「That's……ridiculous……」

「Your head……as I've thought……it isn't that good huh? I should've told you that it's physics calculation manipulation right?」

「……is that……perhaps……」

Without an expression, she nodded.

「It's one of the skills I'm proud of. If you can't do that at least, in the ends of the deepest floors……you won't be able to do anything」

And there, she made a very, very cold smile, and asked Narwick.

「Ahh, now that I think about it, your——no, Brave-sama's……best skill, what was it again?」

Narwick's expression, was gradually dyed with fear.

Without minding that, she reached out her hand forward, spread her fingers, and gripped it.

「【Physics Calculation Manipulation】——and, Sàn(散)」

*Pachun*, together with that ridiculous sound, Narwick's head bursts out, and bloomed a red rose.

**名前** 武田順平　　**シソーラス値** 81

レベルアップ: 999 → 1079

取得ボーナスポイント: 400

## ステータス

職業: スキル・ハンター　レベル: 1079

ＨＰ: 1840　ＭＰ: 180

攻撃力: 300（順平の基本値：5）　防御力: 145（順平の基本値：5）

回避率: 3400

## 装備

メイン: 魔獣の犬歯（神話級）
※攻撃力+250/サブ武器併用時攻撃力+245/神殺しの属性

サブ: S&W M57　四十一口径マグナム（国宝級）
※強化なし/弾丸の補充は魔力による

鎧: 剣聖の軽鎧（レア：ランクS）※防御力+140/攻撃力+45

マント: 身かわしの羽衣（レア：ランクA）※基礎回避力に常時 1.5 倍のパッシブ

## スキル

（スキルスロット残6）

◉鑑定眼（超級）
◉全状態異常耐性　◉解体（超級）　◉モンスター・テイム（初級）
◉擬態（超級）

## 属性

不死者の王
※体組織変性。不死者と同じく、その体液、血液、及び、肉が強烈な神経毒となる

## 使役魔

◉ピュア・スライム　◉パンデミック・スライム
◉サンド・スライム

**Name** : Takeda Junpei Thesaurus Points : 81

Level Up : 999 → 1079

Bonus Points Gained : 400

**Status**

Job : Skill Hunter Level : 999

HP : 1840 MP : 175

Attack Power : 300 (Junpei's basic stat : 5) Defense Power : 145

Evasion Efficiency : 3400

**Equipments**

Main : Magic Beast's Canine (Mythological Class)
※Infused with God Killer attribute

Sub : S&W M57 Forty-one caliber Magnum (National Treasure Class)
※Bullets replenished using magic powers. No strengthening Armor : Sword Saint's Light Armor (Rare : Rank S)
※Defense Powers +145 / Attack Power +45

Mantle : Cloak of Evasion (Rare : Rank A)
※Passive that increases the basic Evasion Efficiency to 1.5 times **Skill (Skill Slot: 6 Remaining)**

- Appraisal Eyes (Super-Class)
- All Status Ailments Resistance
- Butcher (Super-Class)
- Monster Tame (Beginner Class)
- Mimicry (Super-Class)

**Attributes**

Undead King

※Changing Body Composition. Just like an undead, its body fluid, blood, and, meat would become a very strong neurotoxin.

**Tamed Monsters**

- Pure Slime
- Pandemic Slime
- Sand Slime

# Chapter 3 – Satori ▼

*KanaKanaKanaKana*.

Within the mountain, the cicada's cry echoed throughout the surroundings.

The surface, illuminated by an indigo color mixed with red, and the warm wind dries the sweat on the skin.

The time is evening, it is twilight. (逢魔が時)

The night is the time where monsters live in——it was being told from old times, and Junpei, with a being that seems to be a monster——he is facing a girl wearing a kimono.

「……」

"Well then, what should I do", Junpei placed a hand in his jaw.

A girl that looks like she's in her latter teens, whose long black hair really suits the Japanese kimono. The kimono that had a black base color, has been dyed by blue and violet vibrant designs.

An ephemeral beauty. Her deep black eyes were as if they were the darkness of the deep sea, and had an infinite deepness that seems to engulf everything.

The instant they med, Junpei immediately activated【Appraisal Eyes】, but he wasn't able to know her identity.

Of course, she is not a human——he knew that she was the like of monsters or Mononoke with her atmosphere even without using his【Appraisal Eyes】.

But, even to appraise her, even the【Appraisal Eyes】that were proudly the super-class had no meaning.

——”I see now……”, Junpei thought.

It’s about time that only one pattern wouldn’t be enough……that it was at that time.

Right now, he was not able to find the note that the Ossan left.

“Normally, I should go with only running away, but……”, Junpei made an expression as if he bit a bitter bug.

The floor’s exit, is behind the Japanese clothes girl. Right behind her, he could see that it was placed there with the safety area.

Of course, the Japanese clothes girl is well aware……and just like that, she chose to stand between the exit and Junpei, and stared at him intently without saying anything.

Junpei looked around.

Behind him is an animal trail, the path that he took just earlier had deep lush trees.

And next, he looked at the light inclined plane in front of him.

The grassy open place from the trees that was about 20 meters in diameter——that was being the safety are as it is.

He dropped his look to the grazed injury drawn in his palm and made a wry smile.

This floor, it has only mountain and trees.

Along the way, he had advanced through the animal trail so he knew that even if he didn’t want to. From time to time, he was able to see rivers…… but well, it only means that it’s a forest that has a deep nature where people had not let their hands into it.

Was it the path where the ones before him took, or was it the Shota God’s meddling, or was it the dungeon’s creator, it is unknown, but——just like to say “Please advance through here”, there was an animal trail that was placed there, but even so, it was not something that he was able to call a

path in his common sense.

He went through that path by walking a day and a night, and what he met——is the girl standing before him.

The time since they started staring at each other, was already very long.

——"I'd get killed if I stimulate her carelessly".

To the pressure that the girl releases, Junpei's instinct rang its loudest alarm.

But though that was said, there was no way for him to move back, so the situation was blocked in all directions.

That is why, Junpei had a daunting stance since earlier and waited and see.

「Here here, if you don't say anything forever, what should I do……I'd get troubled how to react」

Extending to her waist——no, while brushing her long hair extending to her knees with her right hand dexterously, the girl started to move towards him.

「Inside of this kind of labyrinth, something like how to deal with a girl standing alone, that's the one I wouldn't get an idea huh? On top of that, it's a matchless beauty that one would think that it's of this world's」

「Kufufu, even if you praise my appearance, I don't have anything to give you after all this time you know?」

"Hou", Junpei shrugged his shoulder.

「After all this time……huh. And……the reason for that is?」

Wetting her luscious lips with her tongue, the girl laughed casually

「I had known that I am beautiful from a long time ago. Is there a reason needed other than that?」

“Well, this one’s foxy”, Junpei let out a light sigh.

The distance between them is 20 meters. If their distance was this far away, even if he got attacked without preliminary actions, he would be able to deal with it.

No, specifically saying, if it’s an opponent that he wouldn’t be able to deal with even with that, it’s useless whatever he would do.

“And……if that is so, it’s useless thinking of that possibility……”, Junpei took a step forward. At the same time, her deep black eyes were mixed with red colors.

「Well then……with this, it is the distance that it can be used. Right now, here, I think of activating the【Satori】ability. My ability, it’s a little special you know?」(Her sentences ends with “jya”) Junpei narrowed his eyebrows dubiously.

「Ability activation?」

「That’s right. My ability is mighty without equal. And it moved a person’s heart. but the troublesome with it is……the target——in this case, it’s you huh. Towards you, I will receive a certain restriction」

「……?」

「You do not need to think of it difficultly. In short……as a restriction of the use of this ability, I need to declare it first」

「……?」

——”Haa～? What the heck is she talking about?”.

When Junpei thought of that, the Japanese clothes girl laughed.

「——”Haa～? What the heck is she talking about?” You said? I see, I see, it could not be helped for you to think of that」

「……」

Junpei shuts up, he thought that the girl in front of him was eerie.

「And, right now, you thought of me as eerie」

“This, is it perhaps……”, Junpei had an uncomfortable sweat in his sides.

Within the mountain, the Japanese clothes girl, and the situation right now.

——as far as he thought, this situation is not good at all.

Together with fear, Junpei had goosebumps

「And next, you, you had fear of me. And——」

“Ahh, there’s no doubt, she is——”, when Junpei thought of that, *Pon*, the Japanese clothes girl hits her palm.

「Thinking about it, I had yet to introduce myself……I am Satori. As you had guessed, one that reads people’s minds, that kind of monster……or maybe a God」

「……I guessed of that. You’re pretty much a major youkai after all. But, really, this is, saying that you’re a God, that’s bragging too much」

*Kokuri*, Satori, she nodded while blushing her cheeks.

「I am sorry for making you frightened. Even……so……adventurers who are able to reach this floor were a little more courageous though? You’re acting cool, but……your mind’s mental distribution chart are on fire you know……kufufu」

His expression almost broke getting hit his bull’s eye, but even so, Junpei smiled fearlessly.

「Well, doing something like sneaking from behind……is my style after all. Something like you is, honestly……is the most troublesome」

“Un, un”, Satori nodded a lot of times.

「Well that should be the case. You don’t need to say all of it. The way you killed Cerberus……and the other things, you are really——」

Satori took out a fan from her waist, and spread it out.

And *Bishiri*, she immediately shut it closed, and swung it once left and right.

「——the worst scumbag. On top of that unsightly——not beautiful at all」

Petrified for a while, and Junpei shrugged his shoulders.

「I'll take it as a compliment」

「Hmph, you turn defiant with it huh. In the first place you know, fighting is……collision of the trained techniques and strength to its limits」

「Oi oi, if you go with that logic, aren't your way of fighting cheating? Most probably……your way of fighting is you'd read the minds of your enemy, and on top of that, you'd suppress the strength and techniques right?」

"Umu", Satori nodded.

「It is natural and inevitable. If you have an ability that you were born with, is it not inevitable to use it?」

「No……eh?! Then, aren't you a scumbag too?」

Clueless, Satori tilted her head.

「……why?」

「No……why? you say……because you survive in a similar way like me……. and, as you had said, it's scumbag fighting like that right? So then……」

"Ahh", there, *Pon*, Satori hits her hand.

「About that huh……if it's about that, I am far away from being a scumbag」

「Why?」

「You and I are fundamentally different right?」

「What is?」

*Fufun*, Satori smiled lusciously.

「I am one who is beautiful and noble whose name enters the Countless Gods. I am very different from a lowly being like you in the first place」

「……meaning?」

「The standards that you adapted and the rules are different. Even if it's wrong for you, there is no problem for me to do it. For example huh, even if it's the legislative state that is protected by human rights where you grew up, isn't there something similar to that?」(ジンケンニマモラレタホウチコッカ)
「……I won't deny that……but why are you speaking brokenly with that 」

「It's distorted. That is why it makes me feel disgusted……I think. As far I had read your memory, the world that you want to return to is very distorted you know? The soldiers that risk their lives to protect their country, are being criticized for having the weapons as a soldier, and the guards(policemen) that killed with no other choice to protect the civilians without sins are punished, and got lost to the streets together with their family……it is very much, in the meaning of unreasonableness, your world is pretty much a dystopia huh? And if that is so, this world, as simple as it is, is it not better?」

After thinking for a while, Junpei opened his mouth.

「That's the logic of the strong. Well, if you have the strength to pass through all that you want, this world too, might be easy to live in……. the law in the country that I lived in, it's true that I have a lot of things that I do not prefer, and in reality, I think that it's distorted. But……to the point where anyone is able to live……it's a great justice you know?」

Seemingly unable to keep it inside, Satori started to laugh hugging her stomach.

「Kufufu, kufufu!……no, really……you're really a cute one, huh?」

「……?」

Wiping her tears of laugh with her little finger, Satori spoke to Junpei as if

to remonstrate him.

「When you leave this labyrinth……you, are already one of the strong. If so, when you leave outside……no, there's no meaning to this question huh——」

"After all……", Satori continued.

「——I will devour you」

With those words as the start, Junpei took out the hand gun from his waist and shot with god speeds.

The destination of his shots is the middle of her eyebrows and body. A total of two bullets each was shot without aiming was released with the speed of sound.

*Pan* , *Pan* , *Pan* , *Pan*. A dry sound together with the smell of gunpowder.

Satori dodged the bullets with no difficulty by twisting her body.

「……stop it. All of it's in my buddha's palm. Especially——it's ridiculous to think that you would launch a surprise attack towards me」

「It wouldn't be easy after all huh」

"Umu", Satori opened her fan, and *PataPata*, elegantly fanned it.

「Too bad for you, I had never lost even once until now」

「Well, that's really……」

Once again, at the same time Junpei had an uncomfortable sweat in his sides, Satori mischievously smiled.

「Even so……maybe it is a little unfair to say it like this?」

「……?」

「I let those who had met my expectations pass——no, it might be better

to call it a gate pass? Even though it is I……I let those who had that pass through here. I do not want to stand against the ones in the deep floors」

「……the group in the deep floors……huh」

「It looks like they are calling out young ones who have rare skills from the outside world. It seems like they are planning to clear this labyrinth…… fufu! It's clearing it you know, clearing it? Even though there's no way that they can do that……my goodness……I cannot think that it is sane」

Hearing those words, Junpei held his breath

「Oi, wait a minute……isn't this labyrinth basically irreversible……? You are having some kind of contact with those guys……or being afraid of the possibility of retaliation……you meant it like that right? Is it easy to do something like going back and forth?」

Closing her eyes, Satori closed her fan and took it to her eyebrows.

「Irreversible……huh. Well, in this case……maybe I should leave aside whether they can do harm to me physically? And……it is true that going back and forth with the floors is only one way. There are exceptions, but it is not easy to go here and there. If that is so, for what reason would you say that it is irreversible?」

「……what the heck are you saying?」

「Was it hard to understand……hmm……. For Example……you have met a lot of monsters and humans before coming to this floor in the past. And, right now, the monster or human that you had met in the past had something that they want to say. Or they might thought that there might have been other choices other than killing each other……」

On the back of Junpei's mind, the cannibal race's Katrina appeared.

It was pretty much a distorted way, but a woman that had a good liking of him.

It was the worst ending, but thinking about it right now, there might've been other ways……is what might think just a bit.

「……and?」

「Well……in the past, you……maybe you were able to choose a different choice」

「Well, if it was that instant in the past I probably would've been able to do anything. The result of killing each other might've been avoided?」

「Fufu, that's right, it is as you have said. To you, with your actions…… you had infinite possibilities. And right now, you also have infinite possibilities……all of the things from now on will be decided by your actions」

Junpei tilted his head ambiguously.

「……a zen answer huh. In short, do your best in those times, you say? That's not an answer at all」

「Zen answer……huh. Kufufu……I see, it's true that it might've been similar to that. But, I have good knowledge within this labyrinth……even about your circumstances. Looking at your original memories……kufufu…… it is through that I cannot assert it, but my speculation should not be that off……really, you are really cursed by misfortune huh?」

「I can't understand what you're talking about at all……really, I can't keep up with you」

"Kufufu", Satori returned with a suggestive smile.

「I think that it would be good for you not to let is slide though? Even if you are about to die……it might be good for future references you know?」

「I'm starting to completely lose what you're saying……. So, why are you going to devour me?」

Satori nodded, and *Chirori*, licked her lips.

「I am hungry. Is there a reason needed other than that?」

"Hmph", Junpei laughed, and when he puts away his hand gun, he searched his waist.

He took out Cerberus's Canine from there, and turned to Satori.

「Because you're hungry huh……that's really, more simple and easy to understand」

Junpei kicked the ground, towards Satori.

And at the same time, Satori steps back as if to dance and spoke to Junpei while moving backwards.

「——and so, from now on, what will you do to me? Well……I know it though」

"Ha!" Junpei spat out and shouted.

「From all times everywhere, the countermeasure for enemies with Satori-type abilities is to toss them around with super speed!」

Junpei closed in to Satori.

And when he tried to slash at Satori with Cerberus's Canine——he jumped sidewards.

In an instant to the left direction of Satori, he turned back ones again drawing a right angle on the ground.

「Giving me lethal wounds using Cerberus's Canine……I see, I think that is possible. I am paper armored just like you. On top of that, that speed…… it is true that you are far more faster than me. But I, I had never received a wound from all of my enemies before」

Towards Junpei's attack from behind, as if to elegantly dance after all, Satori turned around, and dodged the Cerberus's Canine.

「What……?!」

Both of them jumped backwards, taking distance.

「It is too bad……tossing around with super speed……even though you said that, it seems like your status is lacking too much. If you have around three times that, maybe, even if I had read all of it……you might have been

able to force it……huh」

Without waiting for Satori's words to finish, Junpei charged once again. He closes in his distance from Satori with zigzag movements.

Looking at that, Satori spat out as if to pity him.

「It is truly……foolish……. did I not tell you that I had read it all?」

And there, "Ha!", Junpei raised the tip of his lips.

「Then, what would you do with this? Ojou-sama?」

The Cerberus's Canine, not slashing it towards Satori, Junpei placed it towards his own wrist.

And while crinkling his face, he cut his skin at once.

「……you read my mind right? What kind of thing this is……well now, do something with it if you can!!」

Junpei swung his arm sidewards, and his blood spurted like a fountain.

Satori was immediately dyed with blood.

While having blood make up in her bluish-white skin, Satori answered with a smile.

「——Nothing will happen though?」

With a frighteningly cold expression, as if to look at him with eyes looking at a broken toy, she said it very casually.

「……eh?! There's nothing……?」

After taking a few distance from Satori, Junpei said that with a dumbfounded voice.

「E〜to……uhm. In the first place, this poison, it's the gatekeeper's guarding the first floor……in short, it's the small fry's ability right?」

「……small fry? No Life King……is?」

「Being appalled……no, even if you make a cute expression……」

"Gohon", Satori continued after clearing her throat.

「Weren't you even told by the god……. Really, it's better to think that that would be effective for so long?」

To the Satori who ambiguously said that, as if to receive a metal bat to his skull with a full swing——Junpei's brain was mentally shook.

Just recently, he was told by that by the God. No, even from before——

——I was prepared for it.

That the time like this would come……that's right, in truth……I was prepared for it.

But, somewhere……I had trusted the poison that I had as the ultimate weapon. And it was clear that I was being conceited with that.

Of course, I thought of plans for clearing the labyrinth without relying on the poison, but——as a result, it couldn't make it in time for this floor.

Looking at Junpei's expression of losing all hope, *KusuKusu*, Satori

laughed sweetly.

「That is great, that is great. Umu……it is the greatest spice eating meat with fear. It is truly very different with its crisp when eating it……. And…… was it poison? I can use Satori's abilities at the cellular level……maybe I should say it like that? Bacteria, virus, poison……all of them, I read ahead of them inside my body precisely, dispose and decompose it」

"It means", Satori continued.

「——poison has no effect to me. Well, you should've been cautious from the point that【Appraisal Eyes】were not effective」

The instant he heard those words, Junpei turned his back to Satori, and ran with all of his strength.

「You're disqualified. It is a precise judgment, but you are too late to be given the passing grade……huh. Kufufu……but even so, your speed is full-fledged, your feet for running away is especially fast……but, it is meat after a long time……I won't let you escape」

Junpei swung his limbs with all of his strength.

It is a fixed matter that he wins with speed, in a pure game of tag, that girl who had that delicate body wouldn't be an opponent.

The thing to be aware of running away are long range attacks……guessing from her words, she had ways to do with these kinds of situations.

But anyways, he ran zigzag to not let the opponent catch him easily. Even if she is able to read his mind, it shouldn't be useless.

*Hyun*, a wind cutting sound.

A warm impact ran in Junpei's right cheek.

——it was cut by something sharp.

When Junpei glanced back for an instant, there he saw countless thousand paper cranes flying towards him.

「Kimono plus origami that has deadly abilities……you're an uninspiring bastard huh!!」

"Haha", while laughing like that, Satori also said to Junpei while chasing after him.

「Cliches aren't to be made fun of you know? And……well, this is……for the time being, it is what you call the shot gun of paper blades?」

She innocently distorts her true deep black eyes.

And furthermore, tens, hundreds of Origami was taken out from her waist, and created the shapes of cranes in the air.

「Give me a break……I'm no thank you for seconds you know?」

「Young one shouldn't be reserved you know? Kufu! Kufufu!!」

*HyunHyunHyunHyun*, consecutive wind cutting sounds.

Countless thousand paper cranes——describing that, it is a barrage, or something close to a wall.

But, Junpei's evasion abilities also already reached different dimensions.

Even if he cannot see that, the flow of the air, sound, and up to his sixth sense, all of his senses are sharpened, and he is able to dodge them with his monstrous evasion without looking back.

「Hou～……even an acrobat whose movements are decided from the start, wouldn't able to do great evasions like this you know?」

Satori whispered with an amazed expression.

But——even though she said that, it is not something that can be continued forever. Satori whispered boringly.

「Oh? Is it already the end?」

「Ghu!……」

With that groaning voice, Junpei's right shoulder——a little higher from his elbow was pierced by the origami.

Once, his posture was almost greatly broken.

——if it breaks here, I will become a beehive by the countless origamis at once!!

He braced his self forcefully, somehow supported his knees that almost fell, and still continued to run with all of his strength.

Countless cut wounds that covered his body, and his pierced right shoulder. His right hand was already cannot be moved, and the blood that he lost had already reached its danger zone.

And, at that time, in the corner of Junpei's eyes, in the side cliff of the mountain path——appeared a river.

——if I jump to the river……it might be possible……?

Junpei turned around as if to check his back.

「Fumu. I cannot leave far from here. If you were able to run to the river……it true that it would be troublesome」

Satori who seemed to get a little impatient, swung her hands in upwards, downwards, left, and right, together with a wind cutting sound.

And with that, three unknown things appeared within the countless origami.

It was a fan that turns at high speeds.

One of them was the one that she had used earlier, and the remaining two are addition.

Junpei who saw that got speechless.

With the bonus of the status, the result of the calculation of all of the situation going to happen after……he found out that there is no escape from this situation.

It was a situation that can only be defined hopeless.

In short, whatever he do, he wouldn't be able to dodge the direct attack from those fans……

「Fumu. It's the end with this huh……well, origami was only a smoke screen and the real shot was the fan……that's all. Inevitably, their deadliness has the differences of heaven and earth. In short……even if you run towards the right, or the left, or not run……all of your path are closed, it only means that」

Satori's words won't reach Junpei anymore.

He charged strength to his feet, and placed the right arm that he couldn't move from the deep wounds in between.

The direct blow……he received it.

Whatever he do, his vitals would be pierced.

Most probably……he would die.

However, just a little bit, even if that is only a small fragment of the possibility of

surviving……, he still accelerated.

「OOOOOOOOOOHHH———!!!!」

*HyunHyun*, the origami that flies towards him without stop continued to cut his skin.

Within that——Junpei flew.

He leaped……towards the river ten meters below the cliff.

Satori who was looking at that do or die dive, let out boringly.

「I was able to kill him……but there is no way for me to reach his meat. It is because, there is no way for me to go away from here……huh……」

After a few instances, *Zashun*, a weirdly light sound echoed from below the cliff.

That is the sound of one of the fans having an unbelievable speed of turning hitting Junpei.

While cutting through his stomach, the fan advanced through his body, and finally got through.

There was no pain or whatever, there was no danger signal being sent from his brain too. *Zudon*, something hit him from behind, and just passed through.

That was the feeling Junpei felt.

——ahh, this is the worst……

His blood and pieces of meat were splattered in the surroundings.

His organs that were messed up, they popped out from the inside of his body.

In front of the undeniable death, Junpei shouted inside his mind.

——shit……!!

He thought about the three fans that were thrown an instant before. And had a conclusion.

——I would've won!! I……would've won. No, there was……the possibility of winning.

She was saying gibberish that he wouldn't be able to run away to the right and to the left. And if that is so, inevitably he was going to reach one answer.

——why……did I not notice……. that woman……in the middle……

"That's right", Junpei thought while falling.

——she is a Satori……she reads people's minds. But that is a double-

edged sword……as the compensation of reading the mind, she has a lethal weakness point. Damn it!……I am a fool all the way……. I should've noticed, when she changed her attacks from area, to points……

*Bochan*, he fell into the water.

It looks like it was a river that was deep, and until the dark bottom of the water, Junpei sunk.

The direction where the light could be seen——while reaching out his left arm to the water surface, *Kobori*, air was released from his mouth.

He drank water, and coughed. *GoboGobo*, air leaked further, and Junpei thought.

——"ahh……this is……the……end……".

†

Haha～! Hello! It's me! Ossan!

This floor's boss is troublesome right! Honestly, it also really made me sick!

Japanese clothes! Black hair! Long hair! Loli! For big friends, it's mouth watering YOU KNOW!

I mean, the popular-everyone-knows, mind-reading youkai Satori-chan……no, maybe a God?

Well, whatever, either way, there's not much difference, and it's troublesome anyways.

Just how she looks, Satori-chan's body is delicate. It's what you call the paper armor……she has no durability.

If any A-Rank adventurer around there was able to hit her, wouldn't one hit be enough? Something like that, Satori-chan's brittleness is at that level.

Her attack powers……well, it's very decent. However, if based on Satori-chan's abilities……her level is so disgustingly high.

And……next is the method for clearing.

The way to defeat these kinds of monsters, it's been determined.

First is outdoing them with speed.

Next is, crushing them with area attack instead of a point, stamp them with strong fire power that is impossible to evade.

As a strange way, think of dirty, luscious things, and do her while she's disturbed.

Well, the last one as a joke, it is impossible to do those things on this floor.

First, to outdo her with speed, the status of speed required is too high.

For Satori-chan, it's an attack that she'd know coming, so unless something tremendous happens, it's easy for her to dodge……well, that's natural right.

And, next is……the strong firepower that is impossible to evade.

In reality, there are a few those who came to this floor having those kinds of abilities.

During that time, what do you think Satori-chan would do? It's hilarious you know?

――she hid in the hole that she dug herself.

That's right, there are several holes surrounding at that place. It's the holes, that she had prepared assuming those kinds of things happening.

It's hilarious right? With her way of speaking and character, she runs away when she needs to.

Really～, I saw it with【Past Peek】, but it really took me when she was really desperately digging a hole by herself.

Surprisingly, that brat's ability was full of defects……she cant use it to several people, and on top of that, she has a few minutes of time lag before

she could use it again.

But even so, she's acting like a bossy loli granny you know?

How can I say this? Uhmm……gap moe?

For Ossan, she's a character in my strike zone you know〜. She's a Japanese clothed loli you know, a Japanese clothed loli Eh……it's a crime, you say?

Don't mind the details. In the first place, she's a loli granny!! She's what you call a legal loli!

No……well, even if she's a legal loli, this is a different world so something like the concept of child pornography doesn't exist you know.

In the first place, child porn is said only recently……and during times like the Sengoku period, marriages for around ten years old is a typical story you know?

In a biological point of view, younger girls have the higher abilities to give birth to a child safely. That's why, isn't there a trend where men seek for younger girls right?

Although the word lolicon is major, the reason why shotacon isn't that much probably has something to do with that.

Meaning, if they would only have their period……if only, they have their period……it's common for men to like that kind of girls……it's not something really weird, it is——

†

Reading up until there, Junpei had a headache.

「Ossan……you were a true lolicon huh……」

There was also the lack of blood for him, that he almost collapsed to the ground.

Within the mountains with morning fog.

On top of the river sand, Junpei was warming his body with a bonfire. *ChunChun*, the chirping of the birds were comfortable.

“But……”, Junpei spoke to himself.

「Yesterday……I clearly received fatal wounds right……? My organs even popped out……」

It looks like he had lost his consciousness for one night, and when he noticed it, Junpei was washed to this dry riverbed.

He thought about it within his head, but he had no memories about how he got saved.

But, as a fact, although he had a few wounds remaining——his fatal injury in his stomach disappeared, and doesn’t even have a scratch remaining.

「I passed to the safety area along the river……? My wounds got healed in the middle of that……I can only think of that, but……well, I probably was lucky……」

Pain run through his left shoulder. The bandage he wrapped it tightly were dyed with blood.

「Even so……it doesn’t look like I’m fully healed huh」

And, there, Junpei strangely narrowed his eyebrows.

「……n? My left shoulder……? Was my left shoulder……the one wounded? In the first place……why are the worst wounds in my stomach……」

*Zaza*, a noise run in his sight. At the same time, a light headache.

In only an instant, a scene that was like a grainy television controlled the surrounding world.

「……?」

When he was standing there with an expression that was caught by surprise, the grainy effects cleared quickly, and the scenery earlier spread once again.

And there, *Pikon*, a sound something like that rang, and an announce of an electric sound echoed.

——the doubt to one's self. In consideration of the doubt held to one's self that is reaching the core of the system, in exchange for the thesaurus points decreasing by 9 points, reconstruction of the memory circuit would be executed.

But, it seems like he couldn't hear that voice for some reason.

「I lost too much blood……huh? My memories are vague after all……」

Junpei who was not entirely satisfied with that, once again dropped his looked to the note that his predecessor left.

「……I mean, I wonder why half of it's torn off?」

Unlike up until now, the parchment that left by the man who calls himself as a treasure hunter, half of it was torn apart.

The other half is probably somewhere around this floor.

「Well, all of the important parts are written so it's fine though. …… but……even so……Satori huh」

He checked the contents of the note once again.

It seems like trampling her with area attack is effective, but Junpei doesn't have the means and the skills of doing that.

「I can't outdo her with speed……poison also doesn't have an effect……on top of that, she wouldn't go away from the entrance to the next floor…… isn't it hopeless」

"Really……", Junpei bitterly spat out.

「Other than doing "that"……there's no chance of winning right. Really…… it's hopeless. On top of that, it takes time for reactivation……huh. The winning rate is near a 100%……if that is so……there's no other way but doing it huh」

He gathered strength to his left hand, he made a first.

He closed and opened his hand as if to confirm it and nodded. Somehow, his left hand hasn't lost its function as a left hand.

「First, she completely read my mind……however, that monster let me go away. That's really weird」

He continued as if to make himself listen.

「In the first place, the last three fans. That was really weird. Right, left, and the middle……if she's able to read my path on escaping, there's no need for her to throw it at the same time at different directions」

"As a conclusion……", Junpei shrugged his shoulder in melancholy. And took a very——very deep sigh.

「Probably, she had canceled her abilities in the middle. Because, she is……. If that is so, I can only do "that"……」

With an indescribable expression, Junpei once again entered the mountains, starting to walk the mountain path towards where the Satori was.

Within the twilight mountain where cicadas cry, the time was completely dusk. (逢魔が時) The safety area behind Satori, and the door that leads to the next floor.

Facing each other, Satori, and Junpei who had a very long and narrow thing around 20 cm.

「Hou. While being beaten up to a pulp like that, coming again huh? And……the reason for that is?」

The distance between them was about 30 meters.

Junpei said while measuring the distance that he can measure with his eyes.

「Within this distance, you can't read my mind huh……. And……of course, I have a winning ticket this time yo?」

Junpei started to walk carelessly, that it can be taken that he was incautious.

Receiving that, Satori took out her fan, and fanned it gracefully.

「Kufufu. I do not know what kind of plan you have, but……humans have shallow wisdom, that is determined for everywhere at all times. You will not say, that that thing that you hold is, a weapon that has the special powers that would defeat me? Well, whatever……the instant you enter the absolute territory of my powers, I will crush that winning ticket of yours」

The distance between them became 20 meters, and her eyes were filled with red colors.

And, Satori declared.

「Well then, I shall use my powers. Kufufu……I wonder what kind of plan it is? Kufufu……kufu……FU?!」

Junpei smiled fearlessly.

In contrast to that, Satori's expression was mixed with clear colors of fear.

「Hehe, are you surprised?」

「Not a winning ticket……you……are you sane? Are you sane? Impossible……that is, impossible……」

「I'm sane of course, I'm very serious. At that time, you let me escape. And also……if you're able to deal with my speed, area attack isn't needed in the first place, right? On top of that, the last one was an attack from all directions……why is it like that……thinking of it honestly, at that instant…… you……I can only think that you cancelled【Satori】's ability. So……if that is so, the reason for that is?」

Junpei continued.

「That as the base, right now, what you're currently reading, I had reached that conclusion. And also……when you canceled your ability once, you can't activate your ability once again immediately right?」

「……most of your reasoning is correct, but……how foolish……you're insane……that……is not something……a reasonable person can choose?」

"Ha!", Junpei smiled deprecatingly.

「If I don't get insane……I won't be able to survive here……right?」

Junpei grasped the knife he had in his right hand with both of his hands.

「You fool……stop!!」

He gripped the knife in front of his own stomach very, very strongly, and one breath for his resolution.

——and.

「I told you to stop!!」

「It's what you call……Japanese seppuku!!——take that!」

「AGHYA!!」

Satori cried a high-pitched voice as if a joke.

「Ghu……!」

Junpei also, at the same time, let out a low voice. After a blink of an eye, *Dosari*, the sound of the two collapsing.

「You……you share your target's heart with your own……and read their mind. In there……you also share the pain……that's why……you…… cancel……your……abilities……before……you kill」

「S……sto……stop……it……please……」

It is because she knew that her reading is 100%, she felt fear from the thing that was going to happen next.

「And……how about……this……?」

Junpei narrowed his eyebrows. Took a breath, and gathered strength to

his hand with his resolution.

*GuriGuri*, he stirred his organs with the knife.

「Ahi……i……」

Once again, Satori cried with a high-pitched voice that was like a joke.

Satori opened her mouth, with short breaths.

「Stop……ahya!……hyau……stop……it……please……hyan!……n……」

While shedding her tears, Satori asked with full of sweat.

「Why……can……you……move……in……this……pain……? Why…… continue……it……?」

Junpei also, although full of sweat, he said his words a little more fluently than Satori.

「Hey……? Until now……you……have……not……received an……attack…… properly……right?」

Without strength, Satori nodded with a cold blue expression.

「Between you……and me——the resistance for pain……are different」

“Funn”, grinding his teeth, he continued to put strength to the knife that was in his stomach.

「Ah!……ahya!……agi!……!」

It’s true, as Satori had said, Junpei also, might have thrown away his humanity for some meaning.

Scraping one’s own stomach with his own hands——something like this cannot be done for show or a whim.

The thing that makes him move is the thirst for living, and the revenge to the ones who betrayed him……however, can a human really have their resolution, and take it to action with only that.

Junpei threw away the knife——and stuck his own right hand into his stomach.

「KUAAAAAAAAA! ……KUA!!……GA!……GI……KI……KIIIii————————!!」

Within the shrieking, Satori writhed in agony.

She had foam from her mouth, shedding tears with her eyes showing its whites, with water coming out of her nose, her beauty couldn't be found anymore any longer.

「Gu……gu……ge……gue……gue——————!」

And she threw out.

*BechaBecha*, the vomit mixed with stomach fluids flowed to the ground.

The sharp smell filled the surroundings——and, at the same time, she immediately calmed down.

Her eyes returned to normal, and the red from her eyes were lost.

「Ability……canceled……huh」

Towards Satori who was deeply breathing with her shoulders, Junpei said.

After a while, Satori regained herself——although covered with vomit——and asked Junpei.

「It's true that although I have expected it, I did not think you would take it in action. But as a result, I do not have any wounds……compared to that, you have one of your feet stepping in the Sanzu river……and from here, doing "that"……I wonder if things would go as you have expected?」

Junpei who lost his blood and had his mind worn out, his face colors went through blue, becoming pale, and losing life.

「If I can't do it……it only means……I ended……here」

In a state weakened and in agony, cannot even stand.

However, Junpei took out a syringe from his waist, and smiled without strength.

And he pierced it to the vein in his neck, and injected what's inside of it.

His vitality returned instantly, and while standing up, he took out a bandage from his waist.

He tightly tied up his wounds where his organs almost flowed out, and faced Satori.

Junpei who was about to die——while his own blood flowing from his stomach——whispered with a calm expression.

「You know what I did right? Well, the result is as you can see」

「Injecting Mandragora powder mixed liquid to the veins……in the first place, that action itself, it's too risky……」

「They say that it's a few hundred times of morphine after all. It's even lucky being able to maintain my sanity……but, that's why, its effect is enormous. Right now, I feel no pain……I can move my body until it reaches the point where it reaches its limit physically. And you, have canceled the【Satori】ability. If that is so——」

And there, Junpei ran.

Without any sluggishness with his movements, as he had said, it seemed like he had no wounds.

And the instant he reached Satori face to face, as if to repeat what happened before, he disappeared.

Of course, the result, it did not repeat what happened before.

Full of composure, he spoke to Satori from her behind.

「——inevitably, this happens」

「Ku! Behind me!!?」

Satori, turning around.

She took out her fan with impatience, and using the actions drawing a circle, she threw it towards Junpei.

But the fan only cuts the air.

Junpei was already not there. And, once again, she heard a voice from her behind.

「If you won't use the【Satori】skill……if it's only between our speeds, you completely know, there wouldn't be a match right?」

「Ngu!……」

「Once again, the words taken from before——」

Satori who had lost her composure completely, took out a lot of Origami while turning around, and threw all of those towards Junpei.

「If I cannot catch you with a point——I only need to attack as an area!!」

But, as the obvious result, all of those Origamis also only cuts the air.

Furthermore, Junpei's voice that can be heard from behind.

「If that is so, I should only dodge before I got attacked in an area. And……it's the continuation. Last time, I heard it completely from you——」

For the third time, Satori turned around.

But, Junpei wasn't there.

She turned around once again. But he wasn't there.

"Ha!", she held her breath, and looked up.

As the twilight his background, Junpei who was soaked with his own blood——from above diagonal to her——he jumped for 2 meters.

「——Cerberus's Canine……you can't block this!!」

And, at that time, Satori's eyes were filled with red flames.

With a face with a broad smile, she shouted.

「……the time has passed! Skill【Satori】——reactivate!!」

That smile, Junpei slashed and spat it off as if it was useless.

「It's already too late! What kind of evasion will you do from here?」

Her face gradually clouded with hopelessness.

Distance 2 meters——

And, 1 meter——

Junpei, he swung the Cerberus's Canine towards her throat.

「Right now, what you can read isn't my mind——it's only the future of your defeat!!」

And a single horizontal slash.

Her carotid artery was taken off together with the flesh surrounding it.

「……gofu!」

The blood that was like a fountain, it spurted with a fan's shape.

In a blink of an eye, *Dosari*, she fell from her knees.

Her face was towards Junpei, and opened her mouth as if to say something to Junpei, but it wouldn't become words.

She was immediately enveloped by light particles, and changed her appearance to one piece of card.

He quickly picked up the card shining with gold colors, and he immediately started to walk towards the safety area.

Even though he couldn't feel the pain because of the narcotic substances, in the standard of surgery department in modern earth, his organs are so messed up that 80%, it can be said that he was already out.

Entering the safety area, after taking a breath, he stared intently at the card.

「【Satori】's ability……huh. If I have this……it would be very easy from now on……no, if things go well……combined with my speed, wouldn't I be invincible?」

But, Junpei's expression looking at the card gradually clouded.

「……What the heck is that?!!!」

And *Gakkuri*, Junpei could only drop his head there.

**【Satori's Magic Eyes】**

**Skill Rank ▼**
Super-Class

**Characteristics ▼**
Assimilates the target's mind with one's own, enabling one-sided sharing of the target's thought, senses, and even its past.

Has the demerit of having to share all of the negative emotions including pain, and having the prior constraint of needing to explain the ability to the target.

The rarity and utility of the magic eyes are low within the magic eyes skills, but compared to the skills except for magic eyes, it has an atrocious level of function.

*(※Race Unique Skill. Physically impossible to be gained by humans due to the huge difference between body structures.)*

Within the mountains of the same floor.

Underground, for about three meters, the remaining other half of the note that the treasure hunter left, it is still sleeping within there.

Its contents are the following.

†

Sorry about that, really.

If it comes, to things about lolitas, I get really excited……I got distracted, sorry.

And, I'm changing the topic, but……however, I wonder why this labyrinth even covering Japanese youkais?

It's Satori you know? Satori……

Something like Cerberus or Kraken……thinking about it carefully, don't you think it's strange?

It's the world with a medieval Europe theme, but, this is completely not medieval Europe.

It's the world that has a completely different culture.

If that is so, monsters from such mythologies coming out, is also……very strange right?

I thought about it before, but……

……don't you think that there are too many strange things about this labyrinth? In the first place, ecosystems and food pyramids, completely ignoring the power balance within inside this and outside, why the heck that a labyrinth like this exist?

On top of that, in the deep floors, they say that there's a group that is aiming to clear the deepest floors with a clear purpose.

The clearance of the labyrinth that they aim for——what in the world is in

there?

Hey? What in the world is this place?

Isn't it about time——

——that you also think it is strange?

**名前** 武田順平　　**シソーラス値** 67

レベルアップ: 1079 → 1150

取得ボーナスポイント: 355

## ステータス

職業: スキル・ハンター　レベル: 1150

ＨＰ: 1840　ＭＰ: 180

攻撃力: 300（順平の基本値：5）　防御力: 175（順平の基本値：5）

回避率: 4000

## 装備

メイン: 魔獣の犬歯（神話級）
※攻撃力+250/サブ武器併用時攻撃力+245/神殺しの属性

サブ: S&W M57　四十一口径マグナム（国宝級）
※強化なし/弾丸の補充は魔力による

鎧: 剣聖の軽鎧（レア：ランクS）※防御力+140/攻撃力+45

マント: 身かわしの羽衣（レア：ランクA）※基礎回避力に常時 1.5 倍のパッシブ

靴: 天魔の足袋（国宝級　サトリから強奪）※防御力+30/回避率+245

## スキル

（スキルスロット残6）

◉鑑定眼（超級）
◉全状態異常耐性　◉解体（超級）　◉モンスター・テイム（初級）
◉擬態（超級）

## 属性

不死者の王
※体組織変性。不死者と同じく、その体液、血液、及び、肉が強烈な神経毒となる

## 使役魔

◉ピュア・スライム　◉パンデミック・スライム
◉サンド・スライム

**Name** : Takeda Junpei Thesaurus Points : 67

Level Up : 1079 → 1150

Bonus Points Gained : 355

**Status**

Job : Skill Hunter Level : 1150

HP : 1840 MP : 180

Attack Power : 300 (Junpei's basic stat : 5) Defense Power : 175

Evasion Efficiency : 4000

**Equipments**

Main : Magic Beast's Canine (Mythological Class)
※Infused with God Killer attribute Sub : S&W M57 Forty-one caliber Magnum (National Treasure Class)
※Bullets replenished using magic powers. No strengthening Armor : Sword Saint's Light Armor (Rare : Rank S)
※Defense Power +145 / Attack Power +45

Mantle : Cloak of Evasion (Rare : Rank A)
※Passive that increases the basic Evasion Efficiency to 1.5 times Shoes : Tenma no Tabi (National Treasure Class Stolen from Satori)
※Defense Power + 30 / Evasion Efficiency + 245

**Skill (Skill Slot: 6 Remaining)**

- Appraisal Eyes (Super-Class)
- All Status Ailments Resistance
- Butcher (Super-Class)
- Monster Tame (Beginner Class)
- Mimicry (Super-Class)

**Attributes**

Undead King
※Changing Body Composition. Just like an undead, its body fluid, blood, and, meat would become a very strong neurotoxin.

**Tamed Monsters**

- Pure Slime
- Pandemic Slime
- Sand Slime

# Chapter 4 – The Witch of Petrification and Dragon of Flames

▼

†

Hyaha～!

It's me! It's Ossan!

And with this and that, this floor.

The people you need to watch out for, is the witch that lives in the forest and her alchemist assistant.

Well, those who were able to get here probably can do something about the assistant. The troublesome one is the witch.

You know about Gorgon right? It's a famous three sister monsters.

Within them, the youngest sister Medusa is very famous, in short, it's about that that when you meet your eyes you will get petrified.

Strictly saying, the witch in this floor isn't a monster inside the labyrinth, but it looks like she was originally an adventurer.

And because of that, she wouldn't respawn if you defeat her, and it would be the end if you were able to kill her.

And viewed from the opposite side, it means she had never been defeated before.

I need not to say this, but her magic eyes ability is very troublesome.

Magic eyes ability is a rare skill that has a high rank, but when it comes to this witch, you wouldn't believe it, she's a wielder of several of them.

Other than common【Petrification Gaze】magic eyes, she also have the special ability of【Clairvoyance】.

Meaning, the phenomenon that happens within a radius of 500 meters, she would know it as if it was the palm of her hand.

And because of that, you shouldn't approach the mansion that the witch is living on ahead of here. If you approach it without cautiousness, you are probably going to be given the petrification sentence by the witch who seemingly likes to fight without mercy.

I mean, the reason why she's here in the first place……it looks like they are mass reproducing homunculus.

Since homunculi is modelled from the shape of humans, they can be used for many things.

Sex playthings, for food, self-destruct attacks……, it looks like their research theme is of those kinds of use.

On top of that, there is a flame dragon in this floor. Actually, it is the most dangerous.

Its body length exceeds 30 meters. It breaths fire and fly in the sky. Well, with one word, it's a giant monster.

Speaking seriously, it's the level that I would want to call for fighter jets and destroyer ships. This one also hadn't have a case that it was subjugated.

In this floor where the experimental site for homunculi exists, for some reason a dragon emerged as a monster……it seems to be like that.

Even for the witch, it seems like she's having a hard time with the dragon, and this is isn't something normal, but it looks like the witch is giving the dragon homunculi as its feed.

And very politely of her, perfume that stimulates the dragon's appetite……no, in the perspective of the dragon, is it spices? Well, she sprays those to the homunculi, and leaving them near the dragon's nest, something like that.

And, the adventurers that went through this floor safely.

It's a ridiculous thing, but they completely ignored the witch and its assistant, and no one also dealt with the flame dragon and passed them by.

Well, dragon species has higher ranks than the Demon King outside…… it's like they're being looked at at the same level as gods so it's very natural if you say so……

And with that, I recommend that you pass through this floor.

By the way, the homunculi living on this floor are all little girls. And more specifically, they are blue-eyed golden-haired gothic lolita.

And then, it's something I don't need to say, but they're super cute!

Right, right. I'll also write this down……the perfume that the witch's assistant develop is amazing yo? There's two kinds of them, one of them, you can only say that it's intense.

How amazing it is you ask……it will stimulate your appetite until you lose your sanity, and the distance that it could call out its target has a radius of tens of kilometers, it's that amazing.

I'll repeat this, you shouldn't approach the witch and her assistant.

And with that……I'm looking forward to meeting you on the next floor. Adios!

†

「Really, this Ossan is always running away……it's very strange on how he was able to reach here. I mean……is he drunk when he wrote this? Writing "you" on a letter for an unspecified large number of people……」

In the floor covered by forest, the time is two o'clock in the afternoon.

The surface was covered by tree shadows, the surroundings are dim and shady, and the air is chilly. There were no particular signs of monsters nearby.

However, there is a presence of a person, rather, there is——four meters in front of Junpei, a blonde who looks around ten.

With red cloth as its base, clothes that seem to be heavy, over decorated by frills.

It's what you call gothic lolita……explaining it with that is the most adequate.

Her skin was the utmost white, a beautiful golden-haired girl that was like an art object.

「Ne～ne～, Onii-chan, Onii-chan?」

The only thing, that was not an art object-like, was the hair springing up from the top of her head.

「……n?」

*Hyoi*, he took a back step, and took distance from the little girl that approached without caution.

Of course, he didn't forget to mind the surroundings, and reach out his hands to the hand gun on his waist.

He wouldn't be able to survive in this labyrinth, taking his guard down with the angelic appearance of a child. Even how terrible of a consequence he would get, it would be only be caused by his own fault.

「Ne～ne～? Ne～ne～?」

Her huge circular eyes folds. A little girl with clear white skin, more beautiful than a western doll.

「Ei!」

Together with that call, the little girl suddenly raised her skirt, showing her pink-colored underwear.

「……」

He lost his words. He only, lost his words.

It was V-shaped and was very luscious, underwear that really feels indecent.

Inside this carnage of a labyrinth, an unexpected sudden development.

On top of that, it's with a little girl.

When Junpei thought that it was very bad with many meanings, the little girl turns her skirt around with calls.

「Ei! Ya～!」

And she made a 180 degrees turn.

「What?!!!」

Even Junpei could only freeze there.

That should be the case……

「T-back……you say!!?」

It was a little girl, but——T-back.

Golden-haired, red frilly one piece, and……little girl.

On top of that, it is T-back.

「……ah!……eh!……」

In an instant, Junpei lost his words, but was somehow able to squeeze out from his mouth.

「What the……what the hell……」

Headache that attacked him with no stop.

He almost collapsed, but was somehow able to brace himself.

And then, towards Junpei who was disturbed, the little girl asked with a

smug face.

「Fufun? Ne～? You got excited? Ne～ne～? You got excited? You did?」

*Kurari*, Junpei almost fell down again.

She was a slut.

She was a little girl, but a slut.

She is golden-haired. Twin-tails. Slut, she is.

“What kind of a light novel is this……”, Junpei shook his head while holding his head.

「Unfortunately, I won’t get excited with no breasts」

——in the first place, I’m not a lolicon.

If anything, Junpei thinks that the dynamite body is the best.

Even if she proudly has beauty as if she was an art object, she’s only a child after all.

「It’s strange～. Onee-chans who were sent to the front lines, they were only studying things like these though～. Although Onee-chans doesn’t look different than me though～. U～mu……I heard that boys would like it though? Though?」

“Fumu……”, Junpei tilted his head.

「Like……it?」

「Un. It’s like that. I need to make Onii-chan happy……」

「Happy……?」

“Un, un”, the little girl nodded several times.

「Un. Right! After all, if I don’t make Onii-chan happy, Onii-chan wouldn’t listen to my request right? Wouldn’t listen to my request right?」

「Wait……just wait a bit……」

Reaching out his right palm, he stopped the little girl for once.

And he thought about the thing the little girl said.

「Sorry. I don't get it at all」

「Uhm, you know. Right……uhmm?」

Looking from below, modestly. *Pyocon*, her hair shook once, it was lovely.

「……continue」

「The flame dragon. It's scary you know. And, uhmm. We, you know, we love Mama」

「……?」

「And then, Oji-san……he's a very, very evil demon. He hits us immediately, he sends Onee-chans to the frontlines……. But, we love Mama! We hate Oji-san!」

"Ahh……", with that, Junpei understood.

"I see, this girl's a strange one who doesn't understand the same language.

I'm troubled……", he thought about it.

「And then? And then? Onii-chan came from outside, so I want to ask something」

"Fu～……", he asked after letting out a small sigh.

「……ask something? Come to think of it, that's why you showed your underwear from the start right? To make my mood better」

*KokuKoku*, the little girl shook her head vertically several times.

「Right, right. And then, uhmm, you know, uhmm……Onii-chan's――」

And, she continued.

「――heart, gimme it?」(TL: she means the organ, literally)

In an instant, Junpei took a back step taking distance.

And he took out his handgun from his waist, and matched the gunpoint to the golden-haired girl's forehead.

「I see……that kind of pattern huh」

He said that while glaring at her, and then, the girl shook her head with fright.

「You shouldn't……make scary face you know?」

「Ha～?」

「You shouldn't glare at people you know?」

While swelling tears, the girl shook her head intensely.

Her twin-tails drew arcs, and reminisces a lion dance.

「……haa～? What the heck are you really?」

Even after the disturbing line earlier, the girl didn't take out a weapon or anything, and it doesn't seem like she activated a magic or skill.

It's just, she simply――"Gimme your heart", only asks for it.

"Well now", when Junpei thought of that, the girl shouted.

「That's why, Onii-chan, gimme your heart―――!」

「That's why I'm saying, what the heck are you?!!!」

In the next instant, a wave of wind blew.

And then, when he noticed it, a man wearing a black robe and glasses was

standing behind the golden-haired girl.

「Ah……?!」

At the same time the girl made a dumbfounded expression, *Suton*, a chop to the girl's bulbar.

And after that, the man with glasses looked at Junpei, and called out to him with an apologetic voice.

「It looks like you're pointing a dangerous thing towards this girl, but……it would be thankful if you can stop that」

After leaving a breath, Junpei opened his mouth.

「The one who said dangerous things, is that brat though」

「Well, it's that's true……And, well, boy. Can you listen to my story for the meantime?」

Raising the ends of his lips, the man created a sweet smile humorously.

With long silver hair and blue eyes, his appearance was about late twenties. Clad in a black robe, his long eyes give a sharp impression like a japanese blade.

「What in the world are you……before that, what the heck is that brat…… is the story quicker if I asked that? Well, she's probably a homunculus though」

「n? Ahh, research for military use of homunculi is being done on this floor. By the way, this girl isn't for combat. Converting to our level……her combat ability is about level 4. That's why a magician job……on top of that, I who specializes for research can easily put her down with a light chop」

"Don't let your guard down", Junpei said to himself. "It is very clear that monsters are dangerous, but humans also cannot be looked down".

In experience, Junpei understood that.

"If that is so……", Junpei chose his words and asked.

「You are……a human, right? Why are you on this floor?」

“Ahh”, the man greatly nodded.

「Well then, where should I start……. First, the words of this girl from earlier……it’s not like it came out with an ill intent」

「……I know that somehow」

「Also, can you out away that dangerous thing?」

「Just a bit……I’ll take distance?」

Junpei took distance, walking backwards.

When he had stepped back for about 10 meters, he put away his handgun.

「And she……no, the girls’ intelligence is low. Most probably, they don’t understand the term heart」

「I mean, in the first place, this brat doesn’t understand the meaning of showing her own underwear right? And, what the heck is the circumstance with this?」

「Did you see the dragon?」

「I didn’t see it personally, but……it seems to be enormous」

「You didn’t see it personally……? You speak strangely……well, whatever. If you know, then the story’s short. That is this floor’s absolute ruler——the flame dragon」

「……hey. There’s a letter placed here, standing out, though?」

The man tilted his head dubiously.

「Letter……what are you talking about?」

「Well, you should just be careful of notes then. And……do you happen to know of a strangely cheerful treasure hunter?」

「n……? letter……? Treasure hunter……I don't have the slightest idea…… well, whatever. it's about the dragon huh――」

*Gyutto*, the man made a fist, and whispered as if to spit out.

「――it seeks offerings regularly. No, we are livestock for the dragon. Or maybe it thinks that this whole floor is a farm. Well, in short, if we don't give offerings, we would get annihilated……that's all」

「……hmm」

「And it especially prefers organs. That information is hidden from the homunculi, but……this girl, most probably……no, this individual, she probably eavesdropped on my conversation with Sanya, she knew about it」

「……Sanya?」

「It's the one this girl calls『Mama』since earlier」

Most probably, the Mama she calls is about the gorgon witch for sure.

「……Mama……huh. The homunculi in this floor, they're made by you, or that "Mama", right?」

The man deprecatingly said.

「These girls are made with Sanya's menstrual blood and my semen. For these girls, I should be Papa, though……they call me Oji-san. If they were only going to be fed for the dragon……I disciplined them strictly to send them in the frontlines, but it looks like it backfired……really, I've being disliked. It means, the reason they want hearts……it's a very childish act, wanting their mother they love to like them」

「……n? What does that mean?」

Together with a sigh, the man continued.

「As I've told earlier, offerings are regularly needed to be given to the dragon on this floor. And Sanya, if possible, she doesn't want the numbers of the research target, homunculi, to decrease. That's why, she looked an eye for the organ, heart, in exchange for that……but in the end, there's no

technology for surgery and the tools needed for it here. If that is so, the survival rate after the extraction cannot be guaranteed……so that's why, that idea was out. This girl heard the conversation about that, so she probably understood that her mother wants hearts」

「……I see. And, as I've though, the mother called Sanya……is the witch right?」

"Ahh", the man nodded.

「Affirmative」

「And……what's your objective?」

After letting out a deep sigh, the man replied to Junpei with a troubled face.

「Homunculi……I want to save them」

「Save them……?」

「Ahh. There's the homunculi's biological experiment, but ever since the flame dragon appeared on this floor, the meat offerings handed out……those are homunculi」

The man opened his mouth with a tense expression.

「They are regularly being thrown near the dragon's nest. While wearing perfume that calls out the dragon. That perfume stimulates the dragon's appetite intensely, increases the dragon's ferocity and libido, making it on an abnormal level. Meaning——after they experience a living hell, they would die」

「……I see. Libido huh……really, that cannot be laughed at……」

"And there", the man looked at Junpei and bowed his head.

「I'll just confirm, but you aren't a guest from the deep floors right? If that is so, I want to ask you to kill the witch. This is something that I can only ask, for someone……who is not affiliated with the guys in the deep floors……but not weak——you're the only one I can ask」

To the request that came out, Junpei replied with a deep sigh.

「There's a lot of things that I want to point it, but……if possible, I don't want troublesome things more than things though……」

And Junpei shrugged his shoulder, and continued.

「For the meantime……talking while standing is, right. I'll listen to your story at least……lead me to a place where you can take out treats」

*KotsunKotsun*, footsteps of two people, echoes stepping on the marble.

Right now, currently, the place Junpei and the alchemist man is walking at, is on the long

corridor extending from witch Sanya's mansion's front entrance.

When they walked through the corridor that stretches for hundreds of meters from start to end, he fell to a strange feeling that it was as if he was looking at a mirror facing another one.

「Once again, I'll confirm this. As I've said earlier, for the homunculi to survive on this floor, there are three essential things」

「……rather than ways to save those brats, I want to ask for the way for me to able to survive myself though……really, it isn't the time for worrying about others……」

Smiling wryly to Junpei who let that out with a serious face, the man continued.

「First is food and water……well, water can easily be gained, this floor is wide, and it has plenty of animals too. If it's an individual that has some level of combat abilities, it would be easy for them to gather food source after learning to hunt」

「And the second one, the top of the hierarchy of the food pyramid——the countermeasures for the flame dragon in this floor, alright? Right now, the dragon is content wit the homunculi that are being offered, but……」

「Ahh, that's right. The power relationship in this floor, first is the flame

dragon, the witch, and with a huge difference, me……next is the homunculi. Those are all」

“And……”, Junpei continued.

「Researching homunculus, and in exchange for sending them to the frontlines, support goods are being sent……what’s that? In the meeting earlier, I hadn’t heard the details……」

「The things needed to live, it is complete on this floor. That’s why self-sustaining is possible…….the support goods, they are things that make our lifestyle here comfortable. For example, sugar, cigar, alcohol……it’s not needed for living, but this mansion is full of that……well, that’s about it」

The man continued.

「……even Soma, it isn’t needed for living normally」

「Soma?」

「Even the guys in who are clearing the deepest floors, it is forcefully given to those who have rare skills……it’s not something that can be spoke of by anyone」

「That’s why I’m asking you, what is it really?」

Together with a sigh, the man continued.

「It’s an elixir for longevity. The cells that the humans are composed of——do you know about the limits of its division?」

Junpei had his eyes wide open and stopped for an instant.

The man who was leading him turned around, and tilted his head.

「What happened?」

「No……you’re an alchemist……you’re in a class that has knowledge in this world……but, even so……what you’re talking about right now is about telomeres or Hayflick limit……it’s about aging phenomenon according to genetics right?」

「Telomere? Hayflick limit? I had not heard about terms like that though……」

“Hmm……”, Junpei placed his hand to his jaw, and thought.

The ones who had a trip from earth to this world is only a few.

If that is so, even if someone had left those kinds of knowledge in this world, it wouldn’t be that strange……

“Well, anyways”, the man continued.

「The increase of cells reaching the limits of division inside their body is called aging phenomenon. However, if Soma is taken regularly……ahh, explaining in detail about its theory would be very long, what do you think?」

Junpei stopped the man with his hand.

「No thank you. From the flow of the story, in short, taking in Soma would achieve longevity, it’s like that right?」

「Wanting livelihood goods……and Soma, Witch Sanya and I are reproducing and researching homunculus」

「I mean, reproduction and researching homunculus……what for?」

「The consolidation of experience points, combat personnel, sex slaves, the possibilities for uses like that……well, it’s not a proper research. All of it is on how the clearance of the frontlines are going to advance……it’s an experiment with that in purpose」

And there, Junpei suddenly got curious about it, and asked.

「……by the way……your age is?」

「400 and a little. Witch Sanya, she’s over a thousand. In the deep floors, there are probably ones older than that…….to go through this labyrinth, the lifespan of humans are too short」

「I see now. I mean, I’m a little doubtful……are there only humans in the

frontlines?」

「I had heard it like that」

「You had heard, what do you mean?」

「Actually, both Sanya and I, we don't know much about the frontlines. I should've been researching alchemy on the outside world, living a normal life, but……I was here when I noticed it. And I'm half-forced to work the livelihood goods and Soma」

Junpei tilted his head, as if he couldn't get the point.

「Well, that's that, for example, aren't demi-humans like elves have long lives? And that is, I heard that they can live for thousands of years without needing to take in medicine……if you're only going to use Soma or something, isn't there the choice of taking them instead in the first place?」

「Humans, demi-humans, and the gods, do you what is the difference between them?」

「Gods……? Not God?」

"Ahh", the man smiled wryly.

「The God you're talking about……is most probably, the one that commands, and created

all——the absolute one. What I'm talking about is the race of god……I can't explain it that well, but……specifically speaking, they shouldn't be categorized to as an absolute god」

「What are you talking about?」

「The gods that I'm talking about, is in this labyrinth……the monsters that are inhabiting the deep floors. Or maybe, from time to time, the ones that show miracles outside with a whim……you get it. For example, the Cerberus that you met and its owner Hades……or maybe Odin, well, those kinds」

「Hmm～……so?」

「Gods do not grow. As a living creature, and as their divinity, they are being called a god because they are complete. And demi-humans, they are also close to that」

「……and?」

「On the other hand, humans are incomplete. That's why they grow, and evolve. For example, how the human beings were able to conquer the demi-humans taking long periods of times in the outside world. Well, you can only think of it that the lower the human's basic status is, the more they can grow」

Towards Junpei who had an expression that it is ambiguous if he had understood, the man continued.

「That's why……a certain man, that leads the group that is clearing the deep floors……as an effective means of clearing the labyrinth, he thought of making humans evolve. Well, in that person's case, it is also because……he had proven it with himself」

「……evolving is the human's traits. And the shortness of their lifespan, is also the human's fate……if that is so, they only needs to be evolved artificially……huh?」

「The lifespan of the demi-humans are very long in the first place, and the human's lifespan is short. And for a long time, there has been peace between them……but, at the end of development, pioneering regardless of anything, and vigorous fecundity……the humans became the ruler of the land using their civilization, but……」

And there, after thinking for a bit, Junpei opened his mouth.

「Even in the world that I was in, humans have stood on top of all other living beings. I wonder how I could say this……until the humans reach civilization, that's probably the default route for any kind of world you know?」

「That might be true. The guys on the deep floors, that long process of evolution, they have a goal for causing that artificially by controlling their lifespan. This is……I think that this is, even for the one who created this

world and your world, a heresy」

“Hey, by the way……”, Junpei asked.

「In the deepest part of this labyrinth——or at the end of clearing the labyrinth……what in the world, is there?」

To Junpei’s question, the man smiled wryly and shrugged his shoulders.

「Someone of a low rank like me wouldn’t know. It’s just……Sanya who knows better of what’s happening told……the last floor is called “Pandora”. I don’t know anything more than that.」

「If that is so, it might be quicker asking the witch herself……but, that’s very strange. In the first place, the the leader of the clearing group should already be fed up living……and that is, shouldn’t he had suicide long time ago? And even repressing that, and taking longer times to clear the labyrinth……」

The man showed a gesture of thinking about Junpei’s thoughts, but he once again started to walk, leading Junpei through the corridor.

「Why are you trying to save the homunculi, even throwing your long life away, and even going against the witch that is far more powerful than you?」

Junpei asked the man from behind.

「……I got fed up with it」

「Fed up?」

「On living……it is. Humans aren’t made to be able to live for hundreds of years. They hadn’t evolved for that. That’s why if the heresy is done, distortions are created naturally. Honestly speaking……I think that the limit is around my age」

「Limit? What for?」

「The limit whether or not the abnormality for the mind would come. The guys in the deep floors are abnormal——I had heard that it’s a psychopath’s

nest. No, as a fact, it is a group of abnormal people」

「Saying that……?」

「I had been taking detailed order of homunculi for sex slaves, I know it very well——they aren't normal guys for sure」

Silence for a while.

Towards Junpei who had shut up, the man said with a humorous tone.

「Do you want to hear what kind of order it is?」

「……no thank you. I'd only absolutely gonna feel sick with it. But, you know……if that is so, can't you just suicide or do something with it? There are other easy ways right. You also, resisting against the witch……didn't you think about when you failed, you'd get tortured, had done things worst than death? It's not like……you need to push yourself saving the homunculi or something……」

「Haha. Well, that's also true. However……other that I got fed up with living, there's other reasons」

「……reasons?」

「Generally speaking, I awakened for parental love. The ingredients those girls are made of, my semen is also mixed with it. If that is so, it isn't hard for me to think that they're my daughters right?」

「Even you say that, you seem like you're really hated by the homunculi though?」

"Fuu", letting out a sigh, the man opened his mouth.

「As I'd told you earlier……in case of their comrades decreasing……what kind of time do you think that happens? One case is getting sent to the frontlines. Another is dying from biological experiments. And the last one, being sent to the mountain where the flame dragon lives……you get it」

「……」

「Witch Sanya doesn't get angry at the girls. That's because she doesn't care whether they live or die. However, I, as much as I could……did my best to save lives that I was able to save. There's a lot of it, even if it's called biological experiment……if we just are careful with their health, there are a lot of case that they could escape death」

「And with that……training like spartans?」

「That's right. Maybe, they might be better of than being eaten by the flame dragon……there are also times that I forcefully sent homunculi to the front line. Sanya……to be cautious, she had a habit of sending offerings to the flame dragon more than needed. If unneeded killing like that would happen……I thought that it would be better for them living their lives on the front lines. Of course, it is only……if they don't die on the frontlines」

The man had tears while talking. It probably comes from the man's heart, while having many emotions, he said that to Junpei coldly.

「……I see now. And……because you love your daughters so much, with that kind of reason, am being set up right now?」

「Frankly speaking, that would be correct」

Was he disappointed to the man's casual answer, Junpei shrugged his shoulder while being amazed ambiguously.

The man had tears while talking. It probably comes from the man's heart, while having many emotions, he said that to Junpei coldly.

「……I see now. And……because you love your daughters so much, with that kind of reason, am being set up right now?」

「Frankly speaking, that would be correct」

Was he disappointed to the man's casual answer, Junpei shrugged his shoulder while being amazed ambiguously.

「……you'd return that there……really……you're a fox like guy」

「However, how did you notice that you're already within the search range of the Witch? I did not tell you her【Clairvoyance】ability, and there

was no way for you to know her aggressive personality right」

After thinking for a while, Junpei opened his mouth.

「I asked this earlier, but did a guy who has weirdly cheerful tone come before? A treasure hunter in his thirties……and once a neet……」

「No……I have no memory of that」

Thinking again, Junpei shrugged his shoulders.

「For the meantime, you should really take a look at the letters left on places that stand out you know」

「Letters? Left……? I'm sorry, I cannot really understand, what you're talking about」

"Yareyare", Junpei took a giving up pose raising both his arms.

「……really, you're a shrewd guy」

「Aren't you shrewd yourself too? I have confidence that I am an excellent alchemist at least. Other than the【Appraisal Eyes】that you have too, I have other different person appraising skills」

「What do you want to say?」

「Acting like an ordinary adventurer……【Skill Hunt】——the rare skill that is being called the strongest and the worst within the seven selection of magic eyes,【Skill Hunt】……on top of that, you are hiding other tremendous skills right? And also, the ki wavelengths that you possess……I can see as if you have spent decent years. Maybe, you also took Soma?」

「……? I'm truly a 17-years-old yo? Your person appraising skills are really fishy huh……in the first place, I only have skills that I stole」

「Well, I wont inquire too much. For my part, I have no complaints if you subjugate Sanya」

"Ahh", Junpei nodded.

「As for my part, I would get a match easily, so I got until here」

And there, the man stopped and turned around to Junpei.

「An easy match……? I was thinking that I will tell you the way of subjugating her……」

Calling out his item box, Junpei took out a mirror from it.

「Ahh, I know it even if you don't tell me? And, before that, I'll just confirm it……you've finished evacuating the homunculi right?」

「The witch is able to use wide-range magic after all. Well, I closed them in a facility placed pretty far, to not let them die from flying sparks」

「Then there's no problem……and, about the witch subjugation, most probably……you're telling me to use this right?」

「……correct」

The man whistled who seemed to get surprised.

「Well, it's a famous mythology in the world I was in……there was defeating Medusa while looking at the mirror. It's something like cheating」

「I'll continue what I'm talking about? Normal attacks won't get through Witch Sanya's defensive magic. But even so, it is only a child's compared to the defensive barriers that the gods have. And——your Cerberus's Canine has a god-killing attribute. Even how powerless you are, the opponent is a magician job, not a melee-type job. On top of that, she completely relies on special abilities, so if you attack that, she is very brittle. How I see it, if you do well with your speed……you can obtain victory for about 60%」

"No", there, Junpei shook his head sidewards.

「It's 100%」

「……100%?」

They climbed up on the stairs at the end of the corridor.

When they reached the second floor, they advanced the long corridor again.

Marble stones and red carpet, and stone statues placed beside them. Who knows, if these stone statues were the fate of the intruders, or just art objects……but anyways, human, monsters, or maybe animals……the common thing among all of these statues, was that they were having an expression of fear and agony.

「You had talked about the perfume before we entered the mansion right?」

With the statues at the side, Junpei said that.

「Perfume……ahh, the third important thing needed by the homunculi to live on this floor……the perfume to evade the flame dragon. I spent a hard time developing it……well, it's because the preparation for the mass production of this perfume has been established, means the resistance act right now against the witch……」

「Ahh. The instant I heard that, my chance of winning became 100%」

「……what do you mean?」

And there, the man and Junpei stopped at the same time.

「……it looks like she's welcoming us」

The large hall of the mansion spread before them.

About 20 meters vertically, 30 meters horizontally indoors, the stained glasses colored the room with seven colors.

The reason why Junpei was able to notice her entrance, was because of the intense smell of perfume.

Junpei and the alchemist man, they are confronting Witch Sanya, but of course, they cannot meet their sight with her, so Junpei can't see her upper body.

——if Junpei was able to look at her directly, he would've held his breath.

Her silk-like silver wavy hair——the tips of her hair were squirming.

As a sense of fashion, she clustered her hair with wax just like in modern times, but in her case, it was leaning to the side. If said frankly, her hair was made up of hundreds of snakes.

Squirming silver hair, an unyielding gaze, it matches her thick eyebrows.

Clad in a simple violet dress, her abundant chest was being emphasized. Her artistic body lines and buttocks, it was as if it is a greek sculpture.

While looking at her feet——while looking at the red high heels, Junpei activated【Appraisal Eyes】

【Gorgon】

**Danger Specification ▼**
Mythology Class (Lower Ranks)

**Characteristics ▼**
A witch who has magic eyes of petrification that even appears in the greek mythology. They are three sisters in the mythology, and the youngest one is called Medusa. Medusa's head that was subjugated by the hero Perseus, after it was offered to the gods above, in was placed inside Zeus's shield——the Aegis Shield.

Also, even within the western mythology's arms and equipments, Aegis Shield is being called the strongest, but the name of the Aegis System——the integrated naval weapons radar comes from that.

"What", Junpei's eyebrows narrowed.

——explanation of Aegis System in the【Appraisal Eyes】……? On top of that, most of it are only explanation of the mythology……it means that this ability is the optimal explanation that comes out of my knowledge……?

"Well, anyways", he started to speak towards the witch.

「You know what we've come for right?」

「Ufufu. Oh yes……murdering Onee-san……is it? Together with that alchemist burning with justice……Zafie, you're the cute little boy that was deceived by his words right? At times like this【Clairvoyance】is really useful right」

With a sweet voice that tickles his nose, Witch Sanya replied.

「Then the story is fast, I want to ask something before we bring it on」

「Ara, time for questions already? You're pretty much……hasty huh? I don't hate men who want it while it's hot you know」

「Just answer the question……in the deepest part of this labyrinth…… what in the world is ahead of there」

「Ara, even Onee-san don't know what's in there you know? What is in there……Onee-san's curious about it too」

"Hmm……", Junpei placed his hand in his jaw, and asked once again.

「Then, I'll change the question. I want to know the situation of the group that is clearing the deep floors. Within your knowledge would be fine enough」

「Ara, even Onee-san don't know about that you know? What kind of people and what they're doing there……Onee-san's very curious about it too」

"This isn't going anywhere", Junpei tilted his head a little.

「Hey, you……you're not planning to answer questions……right?」

「Ara? How did you notice」

「I guessed so」

Junpei, just like that, took a step forward towards the witch. The distance between them is 10 meters. It looks like they haven't entered both of their attacking range yet, there was no tension on the two's expressions.

One step further, and another step.

「Ara ara, well, well. Really, you're really hasty ……but, little boy, hey? Are you planning to fight in close range with only looking at my feet?」

"Kusukusu", Sanya lusciously brought her snake hair upwards.

In the blink of an eye before she finished those words, Junpei kicked the floor.

While leaping, he twisted his body.

「Oh my, this boy……you have a great mindset huh……」

Landing after leaping.

Junpei held a hand mirror in his left hand, and without looking at the witch directly, he was able to successfully look at her appearance.

「Well, it's something like cheating though. I hadn't been grateful for the mythology's hero-san this much」

Junpei charged at the witch's back with the Cerberus's Canine.

The witch splendidly dodged with a sidestep.

But, following that, thrusts aimed for her vital parts flew.

And while dodging all of that, the with said while being ambiguously amazed.

「To fight while looking at a mirror……you're really a dexterous child huh? I had an image that thief types has high parameters for evasion though……」

"And……", the witch laughed highly.

「Ufufu……don't tell me, that you had captured me with only that? If so, it would be really cute though……」

Crouching down, the witch turned using her hands as support.

She sent out a circular leg sweep with a meter in radius.

「……well, it's also a first for me fighting using a mirror. Honestly, my evasion ability probably has gone below half?」

Junpei dodged the leg sweep sent by the witch.

While fluttering in the air, he whispered while making a wry smile.

「Ufufu. I'm not talking about that. You're slightly off huh……I'll teach you then. Hey? With that……let's say that you were able to touch me, how does powerless little boy plans to defeat me? It's true that you can wound my skin with the Cerberus's Canine though——」

Towards Junpei, the witch chanted something.

And, at the same time, several arrows of flames were sent out.

Junpei twisted his body in the air, and landed while dodging the arrows.

But when he noticed it, additional tens of flame arrows were attacking him.

All of the arrows' path were aimed at Junpei, but with zigzag movements, he easily dodged them.

"Hou……", the witch held her breath with that.

There was no blaming her for being surprised. Junpei's speed is already reached inhuman levels. With straight attacks that don't reach the sound of speed, there was no way to catch him.

At the same time he finished dodging all of it, Junpei charged at the witch straight.

As quick as lightning.

He made it as if he was going at her head on, but he went to her back at lightning speeds.

——I killed her.

The Cerberus's Canine was really able to catch the witch's medullas.

「Wha……?!」

But, it only wounded the surface of her skin, and the blade didn't reach deep inside.

「You should listen up to the end you know? Well, you have great speed and dexterity, but——little boy is really powerless you know」

At the same time she turned around with a smile, the witch caught Junpei's wrist.

「GA!……」

Junpei who had his wrist twisted, dropped the Cerberus's Canine.

He even dropped the mirror, and it was immediately destroyed by the witch's high heels.

「With this, little boy couldn't even dodge, let to say win against Onee-san. You got it? Onee-san's win is already inevitable」

She grinned, raising the end of her lips, the witch continued.

「……letting my guard down thinking of that……you really think of that huh?」

Without leaving her sight from Junpei, she let out a kick to the back.

「GU?!!」

With a dull sound, an invisible something was blown off.

Junpei who couldn't understand the situation, could only widen his eyes.

「My magic eyes have also shown your plans. This boy is only a decoy——and the real thing, is aiming at the chance when I'm focusing on this boy, your surprise attack……if you were able to do that perfectly, you might've been able to make me unable to fight though?」

It looks like he had a decent amount of damage. The alchemist who released his invisibility, asked the witch while sweating and making an expression of agony.

「How did……you know?」

「——Ara? Haven't I told you? My right eye is the magic eye of petrification. And the left eye is the magic eye of distant view. And……I have a third magic eye you know」

"Ufufu", the witch laughed lusciously.

And she turned her sight to Junpei.

She kicked Junpei's jaws, and pierced his stomach with the Cerberus's Canine while in the air.

*Dosari*, Junpei collapsed to the ground forwardly.

At the same time that ended, she once again looked at the alchemist.

「——【Magic Eyes of Time Reading】. You know what that means right?」

"Game over……" hinting that, the alchemist made a wry laugh.

「【Future Sight】? ……seven selections of magic eyes……」

「Oh no. This isn't an absurd thing like【Future Sight】you know? Specifically speaking, it's an extreme advance reading ability……And, in this magic eyes, I can't read in advance with nothing. Inevitably, some information from the target is needed. That is why, for example, this little boy's movements, Onee-san couldn't read all of it」

"Although……", the witch added.

「If it's your movements and how you think, I can read it correctly you know? After all——we had with each other for long」

「……petrification, distant view, and time reading……all of it……you say……? Ridiculous……such a……ridiculous thing would……」

「That's why I'm able to live inside this labyrinth for thousands of years, and I also have an independent authority for the development of homunculus. Additionally speaking……after the development finishes, I am also going to return to the frontlines. Well, compared to when I was still on active duty, the clearing group's level is very high, but……that gap will shrink immediately with the experience points meat bags」

And there, *Pan*, she clapped her hands.

「The story's finished here. Ufufu? Your coup d'etat failed huh……? Ne〜, what would you do? Ne〜? How does if feel? How does it feel?」

The witch walked towards the alchemist who laid on his side. *KotsunKotsun*, the witch's heel echoed loudly, walking on the marble floor.

When she reached to where she could look down at the alchemist, the witch stepped on his little finger with her heels.

「Gu……aa……aaaaaaaaaaa!!」

「……you're really hilarious you know……not noticing that I was only letting you do your thing, thank you for all of your hard work」

「Letting me……?」

「Ara? Haven't you noticed? No, I didn't think that……as I've thought, you lack brains up to that point huh? Then, I'll explain it to you. ……this place, isn't it very boring? The sprouting of fatherly love for the homunculus, feeling of protecting them——and also the rebellion, I knew all of it. And while knowing all of that……I was having fun with it. Your resistance was very entertaining……」

Founding all about everything, the man spat out as if to give up.

「All was on the top of buddha's palm……or the witch's palm……huh」

「Well then, next is your ring finger」

The witch raised her feet high, and when had aimed at the man's ring finger with her heels, a voice echoed from her behind.

「……wait……, granny」

Silence that came for an instant. And the witch let out a surprised voice.

「Oh my. This boy, he's still alive?」

With eyes as if she looks at a dirty cloth, she turned to Junpei.

Junpei checked the current situation.

It's true that his bleeding is terrible, but he was able to let his organs avoid it.

"Yosh……", he nodded, took out the mandragora powder. Sucked it with his nose as a substitute for a stimulant, and stood up.

「Hey, little boy? Ne〜? Getting messed up to that point, even though there's no chance of winning……why can you do your best like that?」

「How can I say this……I, you know, I was a bullied kid. And, you…… however I looked at you, you're the tyrant of this floor」

"Hmm", the witch tilted her head.

「……so?」

「Physiologically, I can't accept it. That's the reason」

The witch broke into a smile, and started laughing while holding her stomach.

「Kufufu, hahahaha!!」

Her muscles convulsed, and crouched in her place.

As if it was really painful, she continued to laugh while catching her breath.

「Hey, are you stupid? Idiot? Are you and idiot? Is little boy really that stupid? You'd die for that reason? You'd die with that?」

While wiping off her tears of laughter with her little finger, she continued.

「Well, there's not much information, but——you can't defeat me with your strength. Even if, it was a Cerberus's Canine, not mentioning defeating me——you wouldn't even be able to give me a lethal blow」

Junpei answered as if it's nothing

「Ahh, that's true. On top of that, the mirror also……it was broken earlier, and I can only look at your feet」

「Then, are you saying you'd fight against me with your eyes closed? An idiot? Are you stupid? How idiotic could you get?」

「The first reason that I can't win against you……first, I can't deal a decent blow……was it that, you say? And, if you're saying that even though I have the Cerberus's Canine……the basis of that is probably……your magic eyes」

「That is correct, so? It's true, that with the clash earlier, I at least know what you can and cannot do」

「Your hometown is?」

「Outside……it is the Armenia Republic……what's of that?」

"I see now", Junpei made a smile full of composure.

「……bring it on, you shit. With that, you'll absolutely be unable to catch my movements」

「It seems like you're confident, but……what will you do against me, with that state near blindness? Even though you're fast a little……and also, I thought of this since earlier, little boy has a foul mouth huh? You should speak more respectfully to your elders you know?」

「I'm telling you to hurry up and bring it on……you son of a bitch. It seems like you're proud that your tits are big, but it's pretty much sagging you know? In the first place, a granny who uses drugs to become young, you're so unsightly I feel like throwing up」

*Pikiri*, veins popped out of the witch's temples.

「……fufu……I was planning on killing you, but I changed my mind. I will play with you before I kill you」

In a blink of an eye, the witch ran towards Junpei, and took out a short sword from her waist.

「Now then, it's true that you're in a state that you can't see with your eyes——let me see what you can do from here!!」

At the same time with the flashing slash of the short sword, Junpei stepped forward and moved his body.

Inevitably, the short sword cuts the air.

「Something can be done unexpectedly, though my eyes can't see huh?」

"Hmph", the witch scoffed at Junpei.

「You're a dexterous boy, so maybe you can do that at least, even looking only at my feet……I guessed that much. That's right, if it's for once or twice……though……well then, how about this?」

*HyunHyunHyun*, the witch started to swing her short sword indiscriminatingly.

But all of those slashes, Junpei continued to dodge gracefully, half of it as if to dance.

And looking for a chance, Junpei who grabbed the witch's wrist, was face to face with her.

The witch opened her mouth with tone mixed with confusion.

「Why……why can you move with your eyes closed……?」

「My evasion efficiency isn't normal you know……when it exceeded around 2000, I guess? My sensory organs other than my sight, I started to use them unrelated with my consciousness. Hearing and smell not to be mentioned, the flow of air, with my skin——I can feel it with touch, and my

pure intuition sharpened. All of my senses, right now, it is heightened」

“If that is so”, Junpei continued.

「Fighting without using my sight was possible from the start. It’s not like, your speed is fast or anything……frankly speaking, it’s not something much」

And there, with a surprised expression, the witch asked.

「Then, why, did little boy……gone his way to use a mirror……?」

「Are you——an idiot? An idiot? Are you an idiot?」

Junpei continued with a tone of sarcasm.

「Of course it’s a fake to let your guard down!」

「It’s true that I can admit that little boy’s speed and dexterity is appalling. However, to do something to Onee-san, Cerberus’s Canine is needed」

While grabbing the witch’s arm, Junpei nodded.

「It’s true that my strength isn’t enough to wound you」

「If that is so……ne～, holding Onee-san’s wrist like this with no weapons, what are you going to do with that?」

“Haha!”, Junpei scoffed at the witch.

「Well, of course, you know……you’d react like that right? In the first place, there isn’t a concept of karate martial arts in this world. No, even if I just don’t know about it, even if it exists, it wouldn’t be a major thing. And, your advance reading could only guess from the things you have in your knowledge」

To the witch who had a dumbfounded expression, Junpei continued with a fearless smile.

「If that is so——from here, I will take another step!!!」

As he said, Junpei took a step forward with his cheering roar.

「The development from here——read it if you can!!」

Junpei grabbed the sleeve on the witch's right hand, and pulled it.

The witch's balance broke……and at the same time, Junpei made a u-turn with his body using a special step, and closed into her waist at once.

And she carried the witch while getting her right arms caught with it.

「Wha……?!」

「This is a martial art that doesn't exist a little in this world right……with those magic eyes that you're proud of, were you able to guess up to this? Onee-san!!」

Her center of gravity broke, she was carried on Junpei's back unable to do anything, into a state where her movements have been fully stolen.

To the witch's first experience, she raised shouts of pain.

「Hi!……what's this……what……is this……?」

「Now, behold! This is the Japanese——Yawara no Waza!!」

While drawing a circle, the witch flew in the air.

One-armed shoulder throw——and that which he threw her freely.

In normal judo, the rule is, they would adjust their powers to not let their opponents get injured, and to not let go of their arms until they landed.

But, in this case, he doesn't need to worry about his opponent getting injured. That is why, he threw her freely.

Inevitably, the speed that the witch flew in the air was quite significant.

What she was going to, was the stained glass window.

She crashed through the stained glass window with rumbles, and the witch was thrown 20 meters below outside the mansion.

But the witch laughed while letting herself freely fall.

「It's true that I was surprised……to think that there were also martial arts like this huh? However……well, it's true that this is high enough, but……are you gonna kill me by falling? That's really too……」

「Hey……Onee-san?」

While watching the witch fall, Junpei who was standing by the window made a mischievous, sweet smile.

「——are you——an idiot? An idiot? Are you an idiot? Are you really thinking, that I uselessly threw you without chances of winning? Didn't you say it yourself? That I……no, that I can't wound you by myself」

*Dosa!*, the witch fell. And the result, with the assistance of magic, the impact of falling wasn't that much. But even so, to Junpei who was very confident, "Is he stupid", the witch made a dumbfounded expression.

「Why did you think that……I would go on my way faking death once? Of course, It was to make all of your magic eyes' powers, make you spend it on petrification and advance reading "under limited situation", and disable your magic eyes of far sight!」

「……?」

「You still don't get it……?」

*Gui*, he pointed with his jaw, and prompted her to look to her left.

「……eh?」

Looking to her left, the witch got frozen.

Her expression, with her astonishment, it was gradually dyed with violet colors.

「What? What? What is this? Ne～, what is this? What is this what is this? Ne～? Ne～? Ne～ne～ne～? Why did something like this? What is this what is this what is this?」

The scenery the witch saw——no, that creature——is according to the treasure hunter, it was written like this.

> Its body length exceeds 30 meters. It breaths fire and fly in the sky. Well, with one word, it's a giant monster.
>
> Speaking seriously, it's the level that I would want to call for fighter jets and destroyer ships. This one also hadn't had a case that it was subjugated.
>
> And, the adventurers that went through this floor safely.
>
> It's a ridiculous thing, but they completely ignored the witch and its assistant, and no one also dealt with the flame dragon and passed them by.
>
> Well, dragon species has higher ranks than the Demon King outside……it's like they're being looked at at the same level as gods so it's very natural if you say so……
>
> And with that, I recommend that you pass through this floor.

In short, the scenery that she saw——it was the flame dragon flying from

afar.

「Hey, witch-sama? The drug that calls out the dragon, made by your partner, you know……」

「……eh? ah? uh?」

「It's danger, you lethally couldn't understand it completely. Well, it was always your partner's work to put perfume on the sacrificial homunculi, so it couldn't be helped I guess……you're too naive! Your recognition of it……!」

And, he continued.

「You didn't think……that it would work to your disadvantage, didn't you?」

Also, this was written by a certain treasure hunter.

> Right, right. I'll also write this down……the perfume that the witch's assistant develop is amazing yo? There's two kinds of them, one of them, you can only say that it's intense.
>
> How amazing it is you ask……it will stimulate your appetite until you lose your sanity, and the distance that it could call out its target has a radius of tens of kilometers, it's that amazing.

And, its effects, the alchemist said, it even abnormally promotes even the dragon's libido.

Even exceeding the differences between races——indiscriminately.

The witch who finally grasped the situation, asked while trembling.

「You……did you use that perfume on me? When in the world, on what timing?」

「Haha, you're panicking enough that the way you call yourself had changed huh?」

「But……something like putting perfume on me, immediately, on this timing, to make the dragon aim for me……such a favorable thing……there is no way……?」

「It's true that I put the perfume on you?」

"However", Junpei winked at her.

「The perfume isn't just here……it's in this whole area.」

"Tch!", the witch clicked her tongue.

「The dragon……to this mansion……no, it is a wide-range attack to this whole area……you say?」

「That's right. After that, I only needed to measure the timing that the dragon would come here……it just means that」

The dragon has already closed in within a few hundred meters. It flew violently that its intense libido and hunger could be felt where they are. And its target, as Junpei has planned, it was completely fixed to the witch The situation boiled down——for Junpei, that was a fire across the shore, although it's a one-sided story for the witch——the place tensed.

It's not something that she could run away from if she starts now.

The witch released a strong gaze to Junpei as if it was her last resistance.

「……If you are going to offer this whole area to the dragon, you will have the same end……if that is so, although it is sooner or later……I will……make you wait in hell……」

"Unfortunately, tto……", Junpei took out a small bottle from his waist, and raised his

middle finger to the witch with his other hand.

「We have the perfume that the dragon avoids……. that's right, it's

something that you don't know. Oi! Alchemist Mister! We're going out! A～ also, dear witchy——I'll go collect your drop items so don't worry!!」

The witch who heard that froze for a while, and finally, she made a red face and started to scream.

「Ki……! Ki……! Kiii————! You……pieces of shit————————!!」

And the distance between the witch and the dragon cuts to a hundred meters

「Well then, see ya later!」

After he had called out to the witch with a face full of smile, Junpei turned around, and started to run with the alchemist.

After they escaped, without taking an hour, the witch's mansion, as if a super huge tornado passed by——it got destroyed leaving no traces behind.

In the lakeshore of the forest about ten kilometers away from the witch's mansion.

As if to cut through the dark, dim, and cold air, the sunlight passed through the gaps of the trees. The chirping of birds echoed peacefully within the forest.

The alchemist, he dubiously asked Junpei.

「……were you……able to expect all of that? No……even so……it feels like……it was done to good……. And to think, that you had spread that perfume……to the that whole area」

"Ahh", Junpei nodded.

「As you said……we were really lucky. For example……even though there was the support of the speed status, even though I only learned it a little in class……it really went too good……like that. I mean, I did that with the chance of it failing, and I had also thought of several other ways, but…… well, the dragon flew properly, so the result was good huh」

Before entering the mansion, Junpei approached the activity area of

dragon that is outside of the witch's【Clairvoyance】meaning, out of her 500 meters radius range, and spread out an enormous amount of perfume. Of course, it's the perfume that strongly calls out the dragon.

That problem was the speed that the dragon would reach the mansion from its nest, meaning, the speed of the dragon's flight, but by gaining that information from the guy who knew the time the dragon flew when he sent the homunculi as an offering, it went better than expected.

After that, he only needed to measure the time that the dragon would arrive and the time spent fighting against the witch, and enter the mansion.

「Hey……」

「n? What happened? Making a face like you were a pigeon hit by a pellet?」

「You……with that kind of ways, you reached up until here of the labyrinth?」

「……no, but it's true that this time……honestly, I feel like it went too good……」

The man shrugged his shoulders as if to get ambiguously amazed.

「Without the help from the group in the deep area, it's a human who had cleared the labyrinth with his own strength……well, it might be true that you are loved by luck, but……no, even so, it went way too……」

"No……", the man shook his head as if to deny.

「It's not like it's something that has an answer, so I'll stop the inquiry with this. Whatever your background is, or whatever place did you come from——if you're someone who could deal with the deep floors ahead of here, you probably have something on you」

「I don't know the heck you're talking about, but……I'm just a brat you can find anywhere you know?」

*Kusuri*, he laughed, the man made a pleasant smile.

「Let's leave it with that」

"And then……", after taking a breath, Junpei asked.

「What are you planning to do with those brats?」

The shadows that hide behind the trees, there were more than a hundred homunculi that sat on the ground there, measured with the eyes.

It looks like……they were looking how they seemed with fear.

"Let me think……", the man placed his hand to his jaw.

「I had spread them in different facilities to evacuate them after all…… with this, their numbers are around half huh……first, the means of self-sufficiency. Anyways, I need to hurry……. if the supply of Soma completely stops, my remaining life would be short. Handing down advanced knowledge and techniques, and the production of the perfume that the dragon avoids are needed. Naturally, it wouldn't be done overnight」

「Ah～……also, you?」

「What is it?」

「You tried to kill the witch using me as a decoy right? Specifically speaking, you tried to deceive me right?」

To Junpei who glared at him, the man scoffed.

「……so what? And……as long as there were real re

sults, you aren't seriously planning to blame me……well, it's because you are like that, that I chose you as my partner this time」

「You're really sly……a fox-like bastard」

Junpei reached out his right hand while making a fist, as if to surrender.

After the man had thought for a while, *Kotsun*, he hit Junpei's right fist with his own.

「So, you're going to continue on this labyrinth?」

「Ahh, I'm planning to continue going deep. Until I got released……it is」

「Even though that even if you had reached the deepest floor, you wouldn't know if you're really going to be released? And……most probably, in the deep floors, only the worst guys, and the worst damn events are only waiting for you, you know?」

「If there's……even a single glimpse of hope, I will. I'm not planning to spend my whole life here……there're guys that I really need to hit in the face at least once after all」

Junpei who had that resolution, searched his waist, and gave something to the alchemist man

「This……what are you planning?」

「It's one of the Cerberus's canines. It's not like I have plenty of them, but……I'll share one to you at least」

After the thinking of something, the man asked Junpei.

「The reason for that is?」

「If it's the Cerberus's Canine, even how weak you are……you would be able to injure someone who is far more stronger than you……the homunculi that you'd leave behind, they would probably need it」

The man nodded, getting his point.

「I see……hope……huh」

「It's not something much, but……it is a signpost, and a small possibility. The means of standing against the flame dragon that would nest here from now on, or maybe, as the means of resisting crazy adventurers that would pass by this floor……you know」

「No, it is something much. If those girls are going to live here, it's true that they should run away forever. Even if it's a small possibility, humans, and living creatures are able to move on」

The man nodded, received the canine, and shook his hands with Junpei.

「I will thankfully receive it. And——I will let the girls hear about you with a lullaby. The labyrinth sprint of a man, who is powerless and weak just like them, and……the feat of subjugating the witch」

▼▼▼

——A few days after Junpei left, all of the homunculi gathered on the lake shore in the lake in the forest.

Black, red, blue, yellow, violet.

The various colors of gothic lolita attires, was it the preference of the witch, or was it the preference of the alchemist.

All of those were over-decorated with frills.

「Ne〜ne〜, Oji-san? Oji-san? Where's Mama? Where's Mama?」

One, within the group that reached the lake the last, asked that to the man who was taking his seat on a boulder.

「Ahh. Your Mama……she's gone」

The unrest that spread, and the wave of anxiety.

「The only one remaining……is it only Oji-san? Is it only Oji-san?」

Receiving the worrying gaze, *Kokuri*, the man nodded.

The man slowly stood up, and lightly spread his arms.

With the every move of that man, everyone who was there held their breath.

「……I will speak of the truth that happened in this floor」

——tens of minutes, or maybe it was for hours.

The man spoke.

The experiments that were being done on this floor, the human sacrifice to the frontlines, and the truth of the offering for the flame dragon.

All that the things the man spoke of——it said, that the witch that they beloved was the true villain.

Within them, there were those who made an expression that they couldn't believe it, and there are even those who shook their heads in tears.

「——that is all of the truth of this floor. And……from now on, you're going to need to survive. For that, the perfume to protect you from the dragon——」

At that time, from directly behind the alchemist man, one of the girls shouted.

「A lie! That's a lie!」

First was heat……and next, pain came.

*Zakuri*, the alchemist man was stabbed from behind.

「Cer……kohyuu……be……rus……kohyuu……ca……nine……kohyuu……」

It looks like with that one attack, his lungs got done.

「kohyuu……kohyuu……koyuu……」

He tried to whisper something, but it wouldn't turn into words. He only, let out air.

"Damn it……!", the man grinded his teeth.

While enduring not to fall down, he confirmed the homunculus that stabbed him. It was the excellent individual even within the battle experimental types……her combat level is more than a hundred, and equipped with the Cerberus's Canine, it's true that if was possible for her to give this man a lethal blow.

The Cerberus's Canine, even how far more stronger the opponent is, it is a godly weapon that can tear through their flesh……that only means, that

even the weak homunculi, are able to injure this man.

And the worst thing on top of that, it seems like vitals, from his lungs to his heart, were precisely pierced through.

「Everyone, everyone! Listen, listen! I saw it! I saw it, I heard it, I heard it I saw it!」

While getting covered with the spurting blood, that girl raised the Cerberus's Canine and shouted that.

「Fue?」, unable to understand what was happening, the remaining homunculi in that place watched what was happening dumbfounded.

「The one who came here before, that Onii-chan you know! To Witch-sama you know! He put perfume on her! And after that you know! Vuwaa, you know! The dragon came you know! It came, it came you know! And the Witch-sama you know……the Witch-sama you know……」

And there, suddenly——that homunculus started collapse in tears with deep emotions.

Within the man's fading consciousness, "Damage in emotional controls, requires improvement huh……", as if it was someone else's business, analyzed the particular homunculus.

And finally, the man regained himself, and deprecatingly laughed.

「In other words! If you wear the perfume that Oji-san said, you know! Immediately you know, immediately you know! You're going to be eaten by the dragon!」

Her words were overwhelmingly not enough, but to everyone in this place, it seems like it was sufficient to make them recognize that the alchemist man=evil.

Originally, the popularity of the witch within the homunculi is high, and the way they hated the alchemist man was also as high.

If there was an individual who lead them, it was natural for the things to go this way.

“I need to say something……”, he tried to open his mouth. But——

——kohyuu. kohyuu.

It wouldn’t become words.

He had so many things he wanted to say.

However, all of them wouldn’t become a sound. It wouldn’t turn into words that have meanings.

Did he lose too much blood, the man finally collapsed.

「Ne～ne～? Everyone? What will we do? What will we do?」

The man who moved his limbs in his place as if a dying insect, the homunculi surrounded him.

「The one who killed Mama……is the Onii-chan who is Oji-san’s comrade right? Right?」

「Uhmm. Uhmm. Oji-san asked Onii-chan, to kill Mama I guess? I guess?」

「So? So?」

「What do you think? What do you think? Who is evil?」

「If Mama is gone, it’s sad right? It’s sad right?」

One of them whispered sadly, and immediately made an innocent smile and continued.

「If Oji-san disappeared, no one would care right? No one right?」

「Is it okay if we do it? If we do it?」

That was within——the man’s assumption.

From the time that he lost his words from being stabbed from behind, he somehow knew that this was going to happen.

Originally, the design of the homunculus girls, and their personalities are from Grimm's Fairytales——the original source of dark fantasy——it was based on the characters that appeared there.

「Let's do it? Ne〜, Let's do it?」

No one wanted for it to be like this. No one wanted an ending like this.

There were so many things that he needed to tell them.

However, all of those, after all——it wouldn't turn into meaningful sounds. It wouldn't turn into words.

A certain homunculus held a fist size rock, raised that highly, and innocently shouted!

「Do it!」

「Do it!」

「Do it～!」

「Do it～!」

All of the homunculus held a fist size rock, and shouted with their mouths.

「「「「(Kill)Do it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!」」」」」

When all of their eyes were dyed with murderous violent colors, one of the homunculi walked towards the alchemist man.

「Ne～ne～, Oji-chan? Oji-chan――」

She adorably tilted her head, and continued.

「――Your brains, gimme?」

**名前** 武田順平　　**シソーラス値** 67

レベルアップ: 1150 → 1150

取得ボーナスポイント: 0

## ステータス

職 業： スキル・ハンター　　レベル: 1150

ＨＰ： 1840　　ＭＰ： 180

攻撃力: 300（順平の基本値：5）　防御力: 425（順平の基本値：5）

回避率: 4300

## 装備

メイン: 魔獣の犬歯（神話級）
※攻撃力+250/サブ武器併用時攻撃力+245/神殺しの属性

サ ブ： S&W M57　四十一口径マグナム（国宝級）
※強化なし/弾丸の補充は魔力による

鎧： 剣聖の軽鎧（レア：ランクS）※防御力+140/攻撃力+45

盾： イージスの盾（伝説級　魔女から強奪）※防御力+250/回避率+300

マント: 身かわしの羽衣（レア：ランクA）※基礎回避力に常時 1.5 倍のパッシブ

靴： 天魔の足袋（国宝級）※防御力+30/回避率+245

## スキル

（スキルスロット残6）

◉鑑定眼（超級）
◉全状態異常耐性　◉解体（超級）　◉モンスター・テイム（初級）
◉擬態（超級）

## 属性

不死者の王
※体組織変性。不死者と同じく、その体液、血液、及び、肉が強烈な神経毒となる

## 使役魔

◉ピュア・スライム　◉パンデミック・スライム
◉サンド・スライム

**Name** : Takeda Junpei Thesaurus Points : 67

Level Up : 1150 → 1150

Bonus Points Gained : 0

**Status**

Job : Skill Hunter Level : 1150

HP : 1840 MP : 180

Attack Power : 300 Defense Power : 425
(Junpei's basic stat : 5) (Junpei's basic stat : 5) Evasion Efficiency : 4300

**Equipments**

Main : Magic Beast's Canine (Mythological Class)
※Attack Power + 250 / When Equipped as Sub Weapon + 245 / God-killer attribute Sub : S&W M57 Forty-one caliber Magnum (National Treasure Class)
※No strengthening. Bullets replenished using magic powers.

Armor : Sword Saint's Light Armor (Rare : Rank S)
※Defense Power +145 / Attack Power +45

Shield : Aegis Shield (Legendary Class Stolen from the Witch)
※Defense Power +250 / Evasion Efficiency +300

Mantle : Cloak of Evasion (Rare : Rank A)
※Passive that increases the basic Evasion Efficiency to 1.5 times Shoes : Tenma no Tabi (National Treasure Class)
※Defense Power + 30 / Evasion Efficiency + 245

**Skill (Skill Slot: 6 Remaining)**

- Appraisal Eyes (Super-Class)
- All Status Ailments Resistance
- Butcher (Super-Class)

- Monster Tame (Beginner Class)
- Mimicry (Super-Class)

**Attributes**

Undead King
※Changing Body Composition. Just like an undead, its body fluid, blood, and, meat would become a very strong neurotoxin.

**Tamed Monsters**

- Pure Slime
- Pandemic Slime
- Sand Slime

# Chapter 5 – Phalaris's Bull ▼

Indoors that is just like concrete pasted and deteriorated by time.

Parts of the walls and ceilings are broken, in the corridor that is half destroyed, Junpei was walking there. While receiving the damp wind that comes through the holes in the walls, he let out a deep sigh.

Before he was able to reach this building, he had picked up the letter that seems to come from an individual like Ossan, but……

――it was dyed with blood, so he couldn't read most of the words.

Iron maiden, pear of anguish, head crusher……within the words that can be barely be read, these torture device are lined up, but……anyways, it is not something good.

Indoors that reeks of rust――no, Junpei whispered while looking around inside.

「A prison……huh」

Just as Junpei has said, inside the building is divided by corridors and steel bars.

The number of cells is tens, or maybe reaching over a hundred, there is quite the distance from end to end of the horizontal building.

*KatsunKatsun*, Junpei's leather boots echoes throughout the corridors.

Observing left and right, he found out that mostly two-thirds of the rooms are free, and on the remaining one-third, the skeleton that seems to be the owner of the room have remained there.

Glaring, Junpei stared at those corpses intently.

It is common to have their teeth and bones of their fingers be crushed or lost, and stains that seem to be dried blood have spread inside the room.

「Torture……huh. Well, that Ossan wouldn't fall to such things though」

He thought of the blood-stained letter that he picked up earlier, and remembered the names of the torture devices.

「……most probably, if someone fails here, they'd probably be worse off than dying」

He remembered having his leg get cut in the cannibal village, getting his arm devoured by Cerberus, and having his stomach get cut open in the fight against Satori, he laughed wryly.

「If it's possible, those kinds of things……I really hope I can be excused from that」

Normally, there are two kinds of tortures.

First is torture to make someone's mouth open.

It is unknown in the modern times of Earth, but at the least in the past, it is proven in history that criminals and prisoners of war are tortured.

And the other one——pleasure torture.

And speaking of the modern times of Earth, will it be a crime done by an individual who is extremely sadist……and, Junpei who was thinking of that while walking, he stopped there.

It was because four meters ahead to his right side, he found a place that is splattered with fresh blood that even stained the corridor.

Junpei cautiously advanced, and peeked into that prison cell.

——a man who seems to be in his thirties, is sitting while laying his back to the walls.

The change of colors to black by oxidation can't be seen, it was really clear red. That only means that the horrible thing was just done from a moment earlier.

The cause of blood——the man's right hand, it was as if it was crushed by

a pressing machine from the tip of his finger to his elbow.

「Oi, you……are you alright?」

When Junpei called out to him, the man answered while catching his breath.

「Yeah, I'm alright……well, meaning that I'm still alive」

「……who has done this to you?」

The man shook his head sidewards, and answered without strength.

「……you better leave here quickly」

「……?」

「You saw the ones inside the prison right?」

「Yeah」

Together with a sigh, the man continued.

「Able to reach this floor……the meaning of that, you probably know right?」

「……yeah」

「It's not needed to be said, everyone, all of them were strong. However, all of the guys that were caught……they died of torture. No one, no one was able to escape from this prison……it's the end when you get caught. On top of that, this place serves as a safety area……as long as there are food and water, you aren't going to die that easily」

After getting silent for a while, Junpei confirmed his left and right. There's no presence of anyone.

He looked at the blood and meat chunks, the room that is filled with the smell of the rotten finger, and Junpei opened his mouth.

「Helping to escape……is there anything that I can do? I'm not planning

on taking risks……but it would be the best if there are no risks」

To those words, the man made a dumbfounded expression.

「Normally……the moment that someone knows what kind of facility is this, they would want to get out of here as soon as possible though」

“Haha”, Junpei laughed with no strength.

「The boss of this building……I don’t know if it’s a human or a monster, but I want its experience points and drop items. Even if I can’t defeat it by myself, it might be possible with someone else……also, you……I might have you as my companion while traveling」

“Anyways”, Junpei continued.

「It’s not a hundred percent good will. I also have a lot of self-interests」

「……I see, you can also think of it like that huh. It’s my first time experiencing that, honestly, I’m a bit surprised」

“I don’t know how to treat the boy in front of me”, the man was having an expression like that.

And, after thinking about something for a while, across the prison bars——he pointed the lever that is placed on the wall behind Junpei.

「Can you pull that lever for me? The torture that is being done here, normally it’s inside my own room——well, it’s being done here. Torture devices can be brought inside here」

「……」

「Tooth picker, flesh presser, pear of anguish, head crusher……well, comparatively light torture——torture that doesn’t affect lives, it is being done here」

Junpei almost collapsed in his place.

Pear of anguish, it is a form of torture that destroys human organs by expanding its pyriform after inserting the tool inside the vagina or anus, or

maybe to the mouth.

Junpei had once experienced losing his arm and leg in battles——that is why, he was able to understand the horrible meaning of the words the man had said.

「And, when large-scale tortures will be done, I will be taken to a hospital room. During that time, it would use that lever to open and close the entrance」

「I mean, oi, please wait a minute……large-scale torture, you mean……?」

「Iron maiden, there's also a lot of other ones, things like Phalaris's bull……」

And there, Junpei asked the man.

「Phalaris's bull……?」

「Yeah, it looks like you don't know. Really……it's a vexing equipment」

「Vexing?」

「In short, it's a mold of a bull made of metal. However, inside that, a person is just fit, to be put inside that」

「Inside the mold, a person……will?」

「Right. Meaning, a person will be put inside the bull, and below it……well, the stomach part. That would be put in flames」

「……just like steaming?」

"Un", the man nodded.

「……Right, it's steaming……however, it's not something kind enough that you can pass if like normal steaming」

「……?」

「Do you know the general cause of dying by getting burned? Most of the

time , you will lose your consciousness because of the smoke before burning to death. Or maybe, you will die because of breathing in heated air. That's why, the pain……it's less than what you can imagine」

「……?」

「The bull has a mouth. No, specifically speaking, there is a breathing opening for humans inside that mold. And that mold is connected to the mouth of the bull……rather than heated air, you will be able to breathe in fresh cold air inside the scorching hell. Being trapped inside the mold, having hot temperature to one's stomach, what do you think would a person do?」

Junpei was appalled, got his breath taken away. Confirming that expression, the man continued.

「Right. Just as you'd guessed, scorched inside, unable to breathe in smoke, and also unable to breathe in heated air……you'll be able to breathe in using the breathing opening. There's nothing as cruel as this right?」

Junpei got silent, and honestly said his impression.

「……continuing living. And as the result of that, meat is scorched, the time that someone can experience their bones getting burned is extended……you're saying that it's hard to even lose one's consciousness right? It's what you call……a living hell」

「And, the breathing opening tube that is connected to the bull's mouth, it has the same shape with instruments like trombones you know…….it is normal to have your meat get scorched, the human, inside the bull, they would scream out with tears, or wail right?」

「Yeah, probably」

「Meaning, that wail would echo inside, you can hear it like a bull getting choked. I mean, the thing that is made that you can hear it like that, that's the thing called Phalaris's bull」

「……really……what a nice hobby」

"On top of that", the man smiled wryly.

「The bull inside this floor is special you know. The speed that it burns, and the speed of the regeneration inside the safety area, their speed are almost the same you know. It seems like it's hard to die by getting burned」

「……really……what a nice hobby」

And, talking up to that, the man asked Junpei as if he had remembered.

「……can you pull the lever now?」

Junpei shook his head sidewards together with a sigh.

「Haa? Don't you know that I already know that you're a perverted bastard that likes getting tortured? Most probably, it's a situation that if I pull the lever, some kind of trap will get activated and I'll get caught right? If that is so……unfortunately for you. Too bad, I'll escape from here using my maximum fighting speed」

「……?」

「There's a lot of reasons, but……why, can you clearly tell『all of the guys that were caught……they died of torture』?」

"Ahh", the man shook his head sidewards as if he had given up.

「I thought that I had mimicked acting injured very well though……it's true that I had said that wrongly」

「There's also other reasons you know?『It's my first time experiencing that, honestly, I'm a bit surprised……』, it's also unnatural that you said that, with that, my doubt changed to conviction」

"In the first place……", Junpei continued.

「It's a set up that an adventurer had experienced meeting another just like this, but left behind unable to be saved right? For something to happen like that, ever since you met me……you were really, casual. If there's the possibility of getting saved from the days of getting tortured, as long as it's not someone abnormal, it's normal that they'd desperately hold on to that right?」

As if to ignore Junpei's words, the man pleasantly smiled.

「.....is Phalaris's bull right?」

「Ah? What did you say?」

「I said, the main dish is Phalaris's bull right? Ahh, of course, I'm talking about your torture full course?」

「Haa?」

Suddenly, *Gakon*, the sound of the lever getting pulled from top to bottom.

Before Junpei who had turned around, a man that completely had the same face as the man in the prison cell was standing, and he was holding the lever.

「.....what?!」

In an instant, the corridor's floor——it disappeared.

Free fall starts inevitably.

After a breath of panicking. While falling, the voice of the mean reaches his ear.

「My skill——【Double】's ability. An inferior copy of the owner can be freely placed.....and be controlled. It's surprisingly convenient.....and also has high rarity you know?」

He heard the man's voice, and Junpei ordered the situation in his head.

「.....Damn it!」

After spitting that out, Junpei let himself to the fall.

*Pochon*, *Pochon*, the water drops from the ceiling, it continues to fall two meters down with fixed intervals.

When he noticed it, Junpei was being tied up in a chair in a dark, dim

basement.

His surroundings were filled with reeking rotten oil and the thick smell of iron, the floor is covered with thick layers of dried blood.

Countless bones are being hanged by the ceiling, and horrendous numbers of torture devices are being displayed like a collection on the wall.

Iron maiden——I don't know what the names of the things other than that, but anyways, large equipments were polished to its shine.

Junpei felt cold chill taking a glance at the room.

——this place, is no doubt a living hell.

It's dangerous to not escape immediately.

For the meantime, he use【Appraisal Eyes】to the chains that bind his arms and legs, then spat out.

「Well this is……really a VIP experience huh」

**【Orihalcon Chains】**

**Item Rank ▼**
Legendary Class

**Characteristics ▼**
Chains that are made with materials that passed down from the mythological era. Orihalcon can be found rarely on heritages of ancient civilizations. It is a material that is like called strengthened ceramic in the modern times, it is very hard yet light. However, because of its hardness, it cannot be processed by normal artisans.

The man who is crossing his arms in front of Junpei, talked to him with no expressions.

「Ahh, forgive me for the late introduction. My name is Jyr. This is the

face of the man that will make you experience things worse than death. You should remember it. By the way, my level has exceeded 2500. Either way, I am not someone that you can do anything to」

「Thanks for being polite……」

「And then……it's about, why I'm doing something like this……right」

「I didn't ask something like that though……」

Ignoring Junpei's words, the man started to talk casually without expressions.

「Prisoner of time……well, dragons, or maybe gods, it's different from those, but……I had stopped being a human for just a little bit. The moons and years that I had lived is very long……although I said that, it's only tens of thousands of years though. I can't even move from this floor……that's why I got crazy a little bit. Escaping from the dragon's nest, being able to run alive to the lower floors……and then, well, I'm just lucky, that's all」

「……in short, for passing time?」

「That's right. To live tens of thousands of years……inside the labyrinth, especially here, there's no entertainment at all」

To those words, Junpei somehow got convinced.

For example, whatever he says to that shota God, it's impossible to convince him.

Most probably, this man's crazy hobbies, might just be an abnormality of the mind that that God had passed.

If that is so, just like the God, the psychopath in front of him, is also impossible to convince.

「It's just, there's something that I'm curious about」

「……n?」

「About the dragon, I can see that you know about it somehow. Above

that, I want to ask……」

「……?」

「Don't you think that it's strange?」

「Saying that?」

「That is a prisoner of time, and it's utmost desire is its own death」

「Yeah, probably so」

「And he was released from the prison of time」

Thinking for a moment, Junpei nodded.

「It's true, it might be like that if you say it. While experiencing that, why are they continuing trying to clear the labyrinth……」

"Un", the man nodded.

「Right, that is right——I had doubts about that ever since……in the first place, why is this world using status, or maybe, why does this world, have a labyrinth that has difficulties to the extreme ignoring all of the living things including the Demon King……I think of that strange」

「……that's true……」

And as if he had remembered, the man warned Junpei.

「Ahh, you better not think of biting off your tongue. Even if you do that, you know that it's useless here right? After all, as long as it is not an injury that your organs had splattered out——you will regenerate」

And then, the man held Junpei's hand that is being tied on the wrist to the armchair.

「Oi……what are you doing?」

He answered to Junpei's words without expressions.

「It looks like, you……don't have interest in dressing up」

Looking at Junpei's appearance, the man narrowed his eyebrows.

Inside the labyrinth where the utmost goal is surviving, there is no way for the culture of decorating develop.

Saying the accessory technologies here in Japan, it is close to the ones within Jomon period.

Junpei's clothes are simple ones that he got from the cannibal village.

To make the man named Jyr dubious, well, there's no helping it.

「Well, whether or not you are interested in fashion……that doesn't matter huh」

"Anyways", the man continued.

「This isn't something you can experience normally」

The thing that the man took out from his waist, are a total of ten awls.

「Don't worry, what I'm going to do right now is simple manicure……it is only, a little bit of appetizer for the full course」

The man made a wink without breaking his expressionless face.

The man who took Junpei's middle finger, he stabbed the awl that he is holding in his hands to the gaps of nails and finger.

「……ku!……gu!……ga!……gaha!……」

While holding in the screams that are flowing out desperately, Junpei only thought.

——what should I do……what should I do……so that I can survive……from this situation……?

All of his left and right fingers, all of them are pierced by awls.

「Nice……manicure, finished……」

Next, the man took out a candle, and lit its end.

「Oi……what are you gonna do?」

「Eh……? Even if you ask me “what”……」

The man was only expressionless, and he answered without emotions.

「The heated wax, I’m only going to drop it to the awls though? Ahh, of course, while it is being pierced to your fingers」

Junpei went pale.

「Well now, cry me a good voice?」

Every time the wax of the candle drops, just like the man had requested, screams echoed throughout the basement.

The roaring screams——it was not something that can be played with human voices.

Tears, snot, saliva.

And after a few minutes, his brain couldn’t process the pain anymore.

The result, as a way of running away, it chose to lower the consciousness level and thinking level to the lowest extremes Meaning——he stopped thinking.

Being tied up on a table that has wheels, *GoroGoro*, he was being taken away.

It was shaking up and down, and when he noticed it, he almost bit off his tongue.

The place that Junpei who was having a vague consciousness was taken to while being tide up to the pushcart——there was a golden bull that is being placed there.

——Phalaris's bull……?

When he was thinking of that as if it has nothing to do with himself, the man's voice reached his ears.

「For two days, good job. You're the first one who didn't pass out with tooth remover-san's torture……well, enough of that. Come now, this is the Phalaris's bull that I had talked about on the first day——it's the real thing」

To the man who explained that without emotions, Junpei answered without strength.

「Kill me……kill me please……please……kill me already……」

He was barely able to retain his will to survive in the first day's blood manicure and candle attack.

But, however, in the second day's tooth remover——Junpei's heart got broken.

The man's tool is only pliers, it was a very simple torture.

However, it was the worst because it was the safety area. Teeth being crushed and repeatedly regenerate with no ends.

Even though he was toughened a little bit by his numerous experiences, Junpei was a normal person in the first place, on top of that, he's only a high school student. It wasn't something that can be endured with only that mentality.

「Kill me……kill me please……I'm begging you……please……kill me…… already……」

To Junpei who was continuously whispering things, the man answered without expressions.

「I talked about my circumstances right? I had lived tens of thousands of years alone, and my thought process is broken. That's why, things for killing time is necessary. And you are a toy」

"As a conclusion", the man continued.

「Until I get fed up, it is impossible for you to be “released” through death. Well, so that you wouldn’t die……in that meaning, probably “taking care” of you is quite possible」

“Well then”, the man started to place firewood under the bull’s stomach.

——Phalaris’s Bull.

Ancient Greece’s Sicily Island. It is the torture device that was selfish order「I want to see new torture ways」by the tyrant Phalaris.

Humans placed inside the bull mold, and its purpose is to kill by burning by setting the fire under the stomach.

However, because the shape of the tube inside is like a trombone, fresh air from outside can be placed inside.

That is why, one wouldn’t be able to lose one’s consciousness inside the flames, they will be burned, while living, and having their consciousness.

Also, the inventor, Perillos, during the development of the device, it is being said that he was made to be the first victim by Phalaris.

Furthermore, Phalaris himself in the after years, he himself became a victim when he got overthrown.

「Hey……are you……serious?」

His usual strong gaze had completely hidden, Junpei asked with an expression that was like a scared puppy.

Compared to that, the man stared intently at Junpei while placing firewood, and just nodded.

The man in front of him, although he cannot be compared to the God, his mentalities is quite disordered.

——whatever I say or do, this guy won’t listen.

With feelings that were like resignation, Junpei, he only left it to his fate.

The chains that bind him to the chair was removed.

As long as the man's level is over 2500, there's nothing that he could do.

In fact, he tried to resist in tooth removal in the past days but it was useless.

It seems like he also has resistance to poison, and that also did not work.

As long as Junpei's blood was not drank or placed in the wounds of the man, the neurotoxin would probably not have an effect.

After the handcuffs and shackles had been removed, the man put Junpei on his shoulders.

「Hey, oi, please……I'm begging you……. I'll do the manicure with you as many times as you want. So……so……」

Even to Junpei's begging, the man wouldn't react.

He only, held the handle without expressions, and opened the door that connects to the bull's compartment without emotions.

「Please……please……excuse me……from going inside this……」

The man laughed with a dry voice.

「Hahaha. What are you saying? After Phalaris's bull, eyedrops of molten lead……I'm also thinking of other things. And also, Phalaris's bull is my favorite torture after all. Not only this once, but it will also be done, twice, thrice, a lot of times」

「……eh……?!」

「In the safety area, one wouldn't die other than starvation. That's why I'll give you food. I'll continue feeding you. If you're not willing to eat, I will feed you a smoothie through your rectum. I will no let you die……not so easily」

And the man casually threw Junpei inside the Bull.

「Don't worry. You won't die. It's made like that after all……so, you can be relieved」

"Instead……", the man continued.

「Cry for me with a good voice okay?」

After saying that, the man closed the entrance, and locked it.

He had already confirmed that the bull itself is made out of orihalcon with his【Appraisal Eyes】, so it would be impossible for a human to destroy it.

What came first, was the heat that he couldn't even open his eyes too.

After that, the skin that touches the metal——from his palm, *Juu*, the sound of burning came out.

「——————————!!!!」

When he tried to breathe, the heated air burned his lungs.

As if he couldn't hold it in, Junpei's eyes opened wide, and checked the surroundings.

——there it is!

He bit the breathing opening that was like a tube without hesitation.

Cold have flowed, and his lungs didn't burn. "To think that breathing normally is this much……", he felt that there was an oasis for an instant.

However, this is the hell's cauldron, no, this breathing opening is the devil's trick.

The life prolongation device that only exists for him to continue suffering——the proof appeared quickly, from the tube that connects to the breathing opening, Junpei's scream of pain from his whole body burning echoed.

「Vuhooooooooooo———!!」

The desperate cry of a bull being strangled, it echoed throughout the basement.

And after that, the man's voice connected to Junpei's ears who was suffering inside the bull.

「Kuhaha……fuhaha!! Well well, what a beautiful cry……you know, I really, really like this. Ahh……I am……with this crying voice……I'm in love with it!!!! Hahaha!! Kuhahaha!!」

The man who had his poker face up until now——he was laughing to his delight.

The voices that show happiness that it seems there is none above it.

Skin scorched, and meat burned.

Pain comes around, the breath comes out.

The bull cries.

「Kuhaha……fuhaha!! Hahaha!! Kuhahaha!!」

Meat melts, bones burns.

Pain comes around, the breath comes out.

The bull cries.

「Kuhaha……fuhaha!! Hahaha!! Kuhahaha!!」

The meat melts, the bones burns.

Pains comes around, breath comes out.

The bull cries.

「Kuhaha……fuhaha!! Hahaha!! Kuhahaha!!」

The man's voice that was strangely high-pitched echoes through his nerves.

From when his bones started to scorch, his consciousness slowly fades away.

“I see, I’ll finally lose consciousness with this huh……”, Junpei thought as if he wasn’t concerned with it, but, however, at the same time, the silver particles repairs his body.

His consciousness that had finally started to go away has revived.

「Rege……neration……damn it!! Don’t mess around!!」

It looks like, so that he wouldn’t fall out of his consciousness……the flames area being adjusted.

Skins scorched, and meat burned.

Pain comes around, breath comes out.

The bull cries.

「Kuhaha……fuhaha!! Hahaha!! Kuhahaha!!」

Meat melts, bones burns.

Pain comes around, breath comes out.

The bull cries.

「Kuhaha……fuhaha!! Hahaha!! Kuhahaha!!」

The meat melts, bones burns.

Pain comes around, breath comes out.

The bull cries.

The consciousness that starts to fade away, however, the silver particles that appears. Regeneration starts. Consciousness revived.

Skins scorched, and meat burned.

Pain comes around, breath comes out.

The bull cries.

「Kuhaha……fuhaha!! Hahaha!! Kuhahaha!!」

The meat melts, bones burns.

Pain comes around, breath comes out.

The bull cries.

「Kuhaha……fuhaha!! Hahaha!! Kuhahaha!!」

The meat melts, bones burns.

Pain comes around, breath comes out.

The bull cries.

And silver particles that appear. Regeneration starts.

"I wonder how long it has passed". Inside the scorching orihalcon, while suffering, Junpei thought.

——why is this happening.

Is it because I got careless on this floor? That's for sure. I will be deprived if I fail, that's the rule of this world.

But, the reason that this is happening……that isn't the root of the cause.

——why am I being imprisoned in this labyrinth.

Inside the scorching hell, Junpei thought.

Noriko, Kido, ahh, I need to hit those guys at least once huh. Un, just like what's happening to me……making them experience things worse than death might be good too.

But, the reason that this is happening to me……that's not the direct

cause.

——why am I so weak.

Right, that's right.

The reason that I am being pathetically burned right now, and the reason that I was thrown into this labyrinth, and wandering around——weakness, that's the cause.

He gripped his right hand that was burned, and had bones being exposed.

Something blazing comes up out within him.

——that was anger.

Anger to his own weak self, blazing anger to this world's cruelty.

「Damn it, damn it, damn it……damn it!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!」

Without using the breathing opening, he screamed with all of his strength.

His lungs burned, and he coughed, but he didn't mind.

And using only his strength——he punches the orihalcon place with his right arm.

He knew that it was useless resistance. However, he couldn't help himself but to hit something.

*Gakon*, a metal sound, and at the same time his fist burned. It was something that he knew that would happen, however, even so——

However, Junpei noticed something strange.

The feeling that he had expected, it wouldn't come however he waited.

And, he dropped his jaws to the scene in front of him.

——it was because, the bull mold, from its right shoulder to its

stomach……it blew away.

He didn't knew what has happening, but to escape from the heat, Junpei immediately rolled out of the mold, and landed on the ground.

Junpei himself, of course, but the one that was more surprised was the man named Jyr.

「That's orihalcon you know……deterioration through ages? No, that's impossible……what in the world……what does this mean……」

To the man who had an expression that was like a pigeon hit by a bean, Junpei smiled fearlessly.

Junpei who was scared to death up until just now, he declared while laughing to his lungs.

「Come to think of it, that God was also saying don't count on it huh. The activation requirement and also the effects……what a tremendous skill. I mean, I don't know who it is, but someone's body, without permission…… don't put in some tremendous things」

With Junpei's own【Appraisal Eyes】, after checking the skill that was placed to himself, what he knew was an alien existence.

【The Devil's Right Hand】

**Skill Rank ▼**
Cannot be appraised

**Characteristics ▼**
Objects and body without exceptions, can destroy most of the things that take contact with it. Asdqnl wqerqndf werq dkapj wjkadfaoho peuhjnafe kjnkdfn j. Okpaweklnf jffne ajnskdf fewfeoisd. Ehawuhoaweruoh;aeln@ dlnf;a3 fdajnfeuin. Awlenr23 f lskaklwou ois;jnmetuo ouaoenon#oing 2jndf0uha lanlksneonre.

*(※Activation requirement: Pain to extreme state. Strong anger against the world. Thesaurus points below 80. Also, skill activation through the user's will is impossible)*

Junpei continued to laugh out loud.

That was laughter that comes from an overwhelming position, a winner's laughter.

「Kuhaha……really. Can destroy most of the things you say……isn't that terrific. Don't write dreadful things so casually you bastard…….on top of that, what the heck's with those garbled characters……don't tell me there's also other things hidden. Really……I really don't fucking get it. But……well, if you're saying that, I'll thankfully use it」

Those words of Junpei as the signal, the man started to run away towards his back.

The place he ran to was the torture device collection——within those, he took out a huge saw.

「Well, your level is only more or less 1000……anyways, you're not my opponent」

The same time he said that, the man charged to Junpei while holding his

saw, and swung it down.

*Shun*, together with the sound of wind getting cut, the dangerous weapon cuts nothing.

「——unfortunately, this one is proud with his evasion. It looks like I can win in terms of speed」

After dodging the direct attack of the saw, Junpei casually grabbed the saw that was swung down to the ground.

——blinding flash.

In the next instant, the materials that composed the saw changed into light.

And continuous to that, Junpei grabbed the man's right shoulder.

Flash once again.

*Botori*, the man's right arm fell to the ground, and fresh blood splashed out to Junpei's cheeks, making blood cosmetics.

「I see……this is really, a cheat skill huh」

The corner of Junpei's lips curved up.

The man's wounds also, it was shrouded by the silver particles, and the loss of blood stopped.

Impatience came out of the man's face for the first time, and he had sweat dripping out of his forehead.

「Well, as long as you're not an idiot, I think that you know the difference with out battle strength right now」

「……」

After silence for a while, the man made a surrender pose raising his hands.

Playing around insects with absolute power——for him who had done that throughout his life, losing his own right arm was enough damage for him to lose his will to fight.

「I surrender……I'll admit my defeat」

And then, the man worryingly asked Junpei.

「Oi……you……. you……what are you planning to do to me?」

Junpei answered with a kind face.

「It's okay, I'm kind after all」

The fear from the man's expression disappeared, and immediately returned to his expressionless face.

「Tha……that's right. It's true, you're someone so kind that you even tried to save me who you saw injured……」

"Ahh", Junpei laughed wryly.

「If I'm correct, the things needed for recovery in the safety area is water and calories, that's all right?」

Unable to understand the point of Junpei's question, the man tilted his head.

「Yeah, that's true……」

The man worryingly continued.

「Why do you ask something like that? Don't tell me……you……are you really going to have revenge against me……?」

Once again, Junpei made a kind smile.

「Didn't I tell you. I'm very kind……unlike you, I won't do an unfathomable thing」

「……thank goodness」

“Un”, Junpei continued.

「Unlike you, I’m very kind. That’s why, I won’t give you food. I won’t give you water. Well, don’t worry, the pain……it won’t continue forever」

「……eh?!」

To the man who had a dumbfounded expression, Junpei refreshingly continued.

「I also think that you know this. Phalaris who ordered to invent this bull, after getting overthrown, he himself was placed inside his bull——and became its last victim. If that is so, the last victim of this device, shouldn’t it be you?」

And, curving his lips upwards, Junpei made a cruel smile.

「Well now, cry me a good voice okay?」

“Hii!”, the man raised a voice that couldn’t be distinguished between a scream and husky voice. For the first time, his expression, it was dyed with clear colors of fear.

The Dungeon Seeker

**名前** q裹'・ホ輓　　**シソーラス値** ヲヲ

レベルアップ: dPOヲ → dPOヲ

取得ボーナスポイント: ヲヲ

## ステータス

職業: 珥ホ硅ɪGン・」r　　レベル: dPOヲ

ＨＰ: POソ<Yス　　ＭＰ: 麹ニSメK

攻撃力: 冗fH（殄ｸﾐhﾝ薤）　　防御力: 楠旆（殄ｸﾐhﾝ薤）

回避率: 櫟4dQ

## 装備

メイン: 鎗壁{Nd釦琿ｽﾞ3ｲｳﾀ••（鉦慷7ホ）
※賢嘱E´Yd・O妣ヌﾗｺ・鞋

サブ: 團№鵜¦濮・#殘k圏A（砒縅薬）
※冥把#ɪZ稽77

鎧: 燁gﾏ緕R゛{セ（燁gﾏ緕圏）　※請-リ@滾驂・ソﾑ゛ｳﾚｯ_xf

盾: 龕昜:ク珱ｺ獷（ヨコ鵞泰）　※睹R・*_5g8コ・モ・シ^

マント: 冥nエサク熾ウ撚オE（燁gﾏ緕R）　※曜ﾌ:ﾕ鰄Yｸ M蒜゛ﾚｯｸﾊ7ｱNﾏ・@

靴: 頡廃g昌（砒縅薬）　※摧誕ョKw<<扉體ﾃ

## スキル

（ウ・fﾊ:ト現櫓ウ•:•ト現櫓）

◉澀間ハヌノモ（濕y箱）

◉頡廃g昌Q頡昌Q　◉旌r點（濕y箱）　◉棚5贏+殴（旱房）

◉旌r點（濕y箱）

## 属性

俎踴N<?>

※蝸・礼ɪk霾・hネH警r"&メロ・eラム晩 " 脊ヤQPミヨ番待••A聡トMト%%チオタ韻ヲシクグ澱・ネノィ規

## 使役魔

諮EQB眩sミ)・/&)　　NトAA\豺[ロ

筋+ネBE、膸

# Epilogue – The Devil's Right Hand

▼

There are a lot of difficulties.

——however, the worst of them, is when your body would not move with your own will.

Inside the world that seems to be heavy with a reddish brown filter, "I'm troubled……", Junpei thought.

After he defeated the torturer, his right hand suddenly got pricked.

The itch rode the blood flow, the dark and deep black yet scorching thing reached his heart, and go through his body from there at once.

At the end, the instant that "that" reached his brain——Junpei's memory and the scenery, all of it got vague; the dreams and reality got ambiguous.

"From there……I had spent not a short time in exploring the labyrinth", Junpei thought.

Inside the vague feeling, however, the only one thing that he clearly remembers was that his right arm was always hot.

At the past——no, was that a few days before, or maybe happening a few weeks before——it seemed like there was already clouds inside his memory, but anyways, he remembered some parts of the memories that remained.

Along the way, if there were monsters, there were also psychopath humans. Or maybe, he felt that there were people who lived their lives righteously inside the labyrinth.

And to all of those that moved——feeling something like the feeling he had for Kido or Noriko, he could not help himself but throw his anger that he could not control upon them.

He does not remember it, but surely, he had killed all including women and children.

In short, he who was being controlled by the devil's right hand, he ran throughout the labyrinth with tremendous speed.

Feeling as if it was not himself. He looked at the door in front of him without having any feelings.

It was a golden colored door. It was not like someone told him about it, but he instinctively felt that that was the path to the end of the labyrinth.

When he had placed his hand to the knob, a woman's voice echoed in his head.

「——【Devil's Right Hand】……what's that? That abnormal ability, why at that time, you were able to easily accept something like that casually?」

A question that he couldn't know how many times he was asked, it was an annoying woman's voice.

When he kills monsters, or maybe flattens villages inside the labyrinth. The black-haired girl who shows in his mind's voice——that voice that could not help Junpei's heart to feel things about it, she asked the same thing.

——inside the dreams and illusion of reality.

So delicate that she might get broken if touched——that ephemeral girl asked.

「Hey……you?」

Under his ambiguous consciousness, Junpei lost his breath.

The girl's question, it's not that thing that speaks to him in his mind.

——this is……person's voice?

When he noticed, at the same time, the commands that control his body was stolen by the thing that exists in his right hand.

He spun around and threw a back fist

But……the【Devil's Right Hand】that seems to be able to destroy most of the things, it easily got caught by the girl's left hand with a carefree expression.

「【Devil's Right Hand】……isn't that originally your power……with only once……berserk with only that activation huh……」

"Really……", the girl who was wearing a summer sailor uniform that seems unfit to the labyrinth continued.

「There's a limit to being useless. Even to eat……it should be a little more fat. You right now, there's nothing useful at all」

The girl took distance from Junpei with a backstep for a few meters.

She drew the Japanese katana from the belt on her waist, and spat out.

「Well, whatever. It's not like there are no replacements……」

The girl's voice does not reach Junpei.

「Uo……o……ubaaaaaaa――――――!!」

「With only one hit……with only one hit, I will let you do what you want」

A beast-like roar.

Heavy low voice that echoes coming from the lungs and the stomach, one that a normal beast would escape with its tails between its legs.

Just like that, Junpei sprinted, however, to destroy that girl, the【Devil's Right Hand】grabbed the girl's left arm.

――a blinding flash occurred.

*Botari*, the left wrist that was grabbed to destruction fell to the ground.

And then, the girl whispered.

「……is that enough for you? Takeda Junpei-kun? Destruction of molecules, barehanded……I won't receive it more than this」

And, the girl casually slashed her katana.

Without resistance, Junpei's right hand was cut away, *Botari*, it fell to the ground.

「I'll collect this later……it returned with a different way from what I expected, but……well, it can't be helped」

Together with a light, Junpei's right hand that was cut off changed to a skill card.

「……law of physics intervention」

After the girl said that, the girl's left hand returns to normal as if it was a video played backward.

The bones are formed, and the flesh, red and blue veins created. Her flesh was covered with fat, and it was coated with skin in the end.

When it was completely healed, the girl kindly smiled, and said this to Junpei.

「……well then……see you later okay?」

*Hyun*, a wind cutting sound.

「……until then……good night」

Junpei's sight spins. As if he was thrown by a judo move——no, faster than that, the scenery in front of him turned.

And finally he collides to the ground. And collision.

The feeling of the ground from his cheeks. Even if he wanted to stand up, he did not have the strength for that.

Well, that should be the case, after all, his body, it is already……

——ahh, this isn't good……my head and body were cut apart.

Within his fading consciousness, Junpei calmly thought of that as if he was not the one who was concerned.

——I, who had speed and dynamic vision that can be said as ultimate…… that girls slash……I couldn't even……see its shadow……the end here huh…… really……how stupid.

Kido, and Noriko appeared in his head, "Haha", Junpei's lips kindly curved up.

——no……but……this might be for the better……I guess. Even if I go outside……there isn't something good that's gonna happen……

And, his consciousness assimilates with the darkness——Takeda Junpei's 17 years of life ended.

# Credits ▼

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